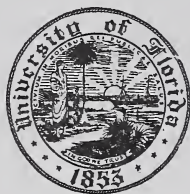



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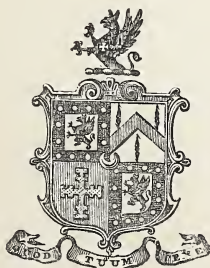
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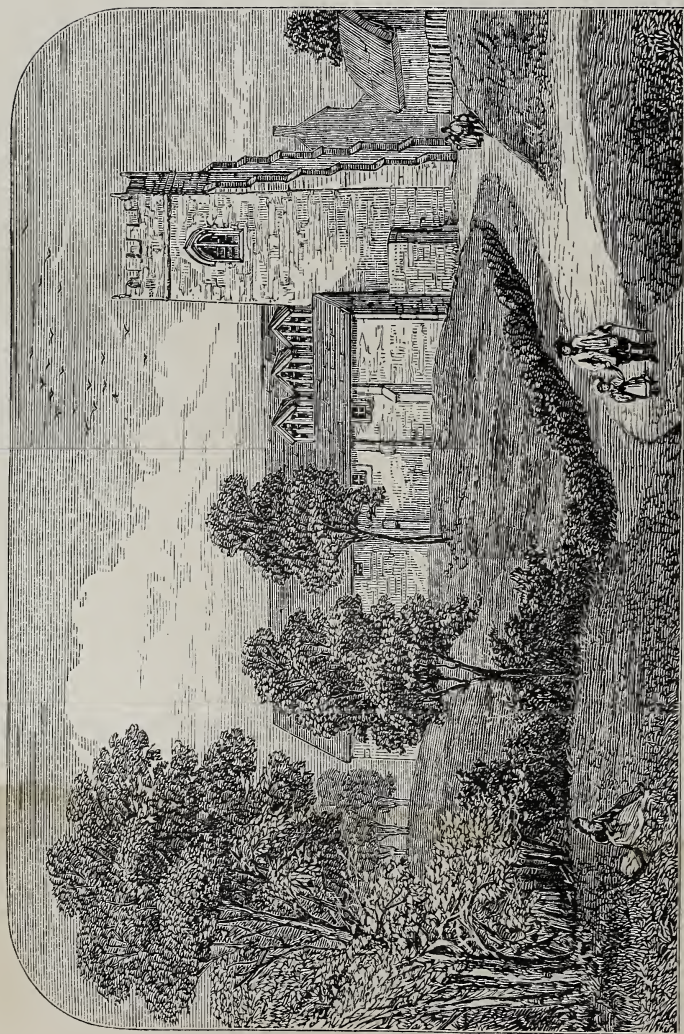
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THE OLD PARISH CHURCH OF KIRKHAM,
(NORTH VIEW.)

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
PARISH OF KIRKHAM,
IN THE
COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

BY
HENRY FISHWICK, Esq., F.R.H.S.,
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHAPELRY OF GOOSNARGH."

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LXXIV.



PRINTED BY CHARLES SIMMS,
MANCHESTER.

2427

PREFACE.

THE original parish of Kirkham comprised within its limits the parochial chapelry of Goosnargh, the history of which I published in 1871. The ties however which bound the latter to the former have, for centuries, been so slight that it might well be considered as a distinct parish; and there can be no incorrectness in designating the present volume as "The History of the Parish of Kirkham," although in its pages will be found no record of that outlying and detached district.

To write the history of a parish would be no pleasant task, if indeed it were not an impossible one, without the co-operation or assistance of many who, from the nature of the case, have in their keeping much material which is of great local interest and importance.

By the kindly manner in which all avenues of information have been opened to me, my work in the present instance has been a labour of pleasure.

For the *original* copy of the "Records of the thirty sworn men" I have to thank WILLIAM LANGTON, esq. To the rev. G. R. BROWN, M.A., vicar of Kirkham, as

well as to the vicars of the other churches, I am indebted for ready access to the registers and other parochial manuscripts. I have also pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to the various owners of estates in Kirkham who have allowed me to glean from their title-deeds much that is of interest and which could not be found elsewhere.

My thanks are due to the rev. W. R. BELL of Laith-kirk, Mickleton, for the loan of the water-colour from which the view of the church of Kirkham was engraved, as also for many scraps of information; and I must not omit to record my sense of obligation to the following gentlemen who, in various ways, have afforded me assistance: namely, the rev. J. SHEPHERD BIRLEY, M.A., of Bolton; the rev. J. H. SHARPLES, M.A., of Long Sled-dale; and THOMAS FAIR, esq., of Lytham.

H. F.

*Carr Hill,
Rochdale.*

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THE
HISTORY OF KIRKHAM.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL HISTORY.

THE original parish of Kirkham was one of the largest parishes in the county of Lancaster, and consisted of seventeen townships, viz: Freckleton, Warton, Bryning with Kellamergh, Ribby with Wray, Westly with Great and Little Plumpton, Weeton, Medlar and Wesham, Greenhalgh with Thistleton, Great and Little Singleton, Hambleton, Little Eccleston and Larbrick, Roseacre Wharles and Treales, Clifton and Salwick, Newton and Scales, Kirkham, Goosnargh with Newsham, and Whittingham. The two latter townships form the ancient chapelry of Goosnargh, the history of which has already been written;¹ and it will therefore only be necessary here to state that, with the exception of the church patronage, almost all traces of connexion with the mother parish have long been lost. Hambleton, the most northern township of Kirkham, adjoins the parish of Lancaster, and the river Ribble forms the southern boundary of the parish.

¹ *History of the Parochial Chapelry of Goosnargh*, by Henry Fishwick. Manchester, C. Simms and Co. 1871.

That Kirkham was occupied by the Romans there can be no doubt; but we think it is equally certain that it was used by them as an adopted station, and not specially selected for that purpose. This was the opinion of the late John Just, who states that "no Roman general ever fixed the site of a permanent station on the top of a hill, or on any high ground or barren spot, but always in such places as Manchester, Ribchester, Overborough, &c., where all the conditions were favourable. Through adopted stations, such as were occupied for a time and for certain and special reasons, Roman military roads run."² Probably the Roman conquerors took possession of and turned to their own uses a site which had been previously occupied by the Britons; but unfortunately, as no remains have been yet discovered in the neighbourhood which can positively be said to have a pre-Roman date, this must continue to be a matter of conjecture.

It is, however, a well-known fact that the north of Lancashire was held by the Brigantes, and that a sub-division of them called the Setantii, or "the dwellers in the country of waters," were the principal inhabitants of the low-lands of the county. And it has been asserted that Kirkham was the metropolis of the Sistantii, and that a great trade was carried on between there and the Sistantian port, which was by some historians thought to have been situated at the neb of the Naze in Freckleton,³ but which is now generally believed to have been on the river Wyre, near Poulton-in-the-Fylde.⁴ The following description of the Roman road which ran through Kirkham is from the pen of the late John Just, and is contained in a paper read before the Historical society of Lancashire and Cheshire.⁵

"Within a mile of the town of Poulton-in-the-Fylde are seen the first indications of the Roman road, connected with an occupation road from a farm house which stands south-east of the

² *Hist. Soc. of Lanc. and Chesh.*, p. 3. 1850-51.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 58, 104.

⁴ Wright's *The Celt, the Roman and the Saxon*.

⁵ *Hist. Soc. of Lanc. and Chesh.*, p. 3. 1850.

town down in the valley. * * * But having got on to the high ground and to a part of the flats of the Fylde district, we meet with striking remains of a road on the turfy ground, where it has been piled up in an immense bank or agger, and serves, as it has done for years past, as a gravel bank for getting materials to mend and keep in repair the common road of the country. Across this mossy flat the line is very distinct, and as therein ditches separate the fields in lieu of fences frequent sections of the road are made, particularly by the water-cuts made for the drainage of the district years ago. On the higher ground the whole line has long been obliterated, and we are not favoured with any other evidences of the course it has taken until we again detect it in a low hollow towards Weeton moss, which has not come within the influence of the general drainage just mentioned. Here is an immense embankment of several yards in height, its base standing in the water, which cannot get off from the isolation of its situation.

“Thence over the higher and dry ground again we can observe but slight traces of the road in the gravelly substratum it has left upon the ground until we reach Weeton moss, where again we have a good specimen. Here too modern plunder is fast despoiling the laborious workmanship of the Romans; the lack of gravel in the district leading the natives to the road of the Romans. The gravel here seems to have been brought from the débris of some river. The line hence directs itself up the rising ground to Plumpton, and as usual in this part the line has been mainly obliterated by the cart and the plough of the modern. From Plumpton it directs its course to the windmill on the high ground between Weeton moss and Kirkham, which there opens to the view. Slight tracings all along verify the track the road has taken. Near the windmill the road forms an angle, and thence joins the public road in a long continuous straight line forwards towards Kirkham. Numerous Roman remains may be detected in walking along the side of the modern road.⁶ The modern

⁶ This was in 1850.

road diverges to the right at the foot of the hill, and the Roman continues forward through the well cultivated fields to Kirkham without a single trace having been left on the ground. About midway within the long town of Kirkham the line of the Roman road falls in with the main street and continues up to the windmill at the top of the town.

“Nearly the whole length of the long street of Kirkham is upon the Roman road, or in near proximity to it. In the Fylde country the Roman road has crossed the swampy low grounds between hill and hill and made angles or slight curves on the summits in threading its course through the morasses. * * * The remains all along are known to the inhabitants by the name of Danes’ pad. The Danes were not a road-making people, except the plundering inroads they too often had recourse to, to strip the poor Saxons of the fruit of their industry. Yet they seem to have found out this road and to have used it for their convenience during their predatory visit to North Lancashire. * * * The Roman road here (at the windmill) deviates much to the left. It is approaching the Ribble in taking its most direct course across the Sistuntian swamps; and now having before it a fine open country it inclines considerably from the river and stretches forth to the high point where stands Clifton church [Lund church.] Numerous and continuous remains of the road now mark out the line—frequently bold and prominent on the headlands of the fields and close to the fences until the church is reached. Here again the line was too much to the right; and near the church, though no traces are visible, a deviation was made to the north and away stretched forth the line in its course through Lea towards Fulwood.”

Whitaker, in his *History of Manchester*, asserts that a Roman town was built at Freckleton in the year 79; there is, however, no evidence whatever to warrant such a statement,⁷ although Roman remains have been found in or near to this line of road

⁷ *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. i, p. 130.

in considerable abundance. The following list comprises the most important of these "finds."⁸

An umbo of a Roman shield was found at the Mill hill, Kirkham, by Mr. Willacy, one of the assistant masters of the free grammar school, in 1800, which, after passing through several hands, was finally placed in the British museum. A drawing of this shield is in Whitaker's *Richmondshire*,⁹ where it is erroneously stated that it was discovered at Garstang. It is about eight inches in diameter, and from the centre is a raised circle of about four inches in diameter, which is surrounded by a laurel wreath. In the middle is the figure of a man seated, his limbs naked, but wearing on his head a crested helmet, and the imperial paludamentum thrown over his shoulders and partly concealing the lower limbs by its flowing drapery. His right hand is pointing upwards, whilst the left (which is injured by time) appears to sustain a bird, which Dr. Whitaker adds, "has more of the appearance of a goose than might have been expected in so dignified a situation." The margin of the shield is very indistinct, but probably was originally decorated with military emblems.

An amulet of light green glass, commonly called a "Druid's egg," with a funicular ornament of white and blue surrounding it. A securis or axe, the blade of which was not placed opposite the central line of the handle but on one side. These were found at the Mill hill, near Kirkham.

A large palstab, a ribbed amulet of coarse blue earthenware, a horse shoe, a portion of a coarse baked urn, with indentations on the sides, were found at Weeton.

In the fields adjoining Dowbridge, and in the Mill field, were discovered an ivory needle five inches long, with a large eyelet and like a "flattened quill;" ten or a dozen urns, some of which were filled with ashes and calcined bones and the remains of steel ornaments and beads, and one contained a piece of a skull,

⁸ Some of these may possibly belong to the earlier British period.

⁹ Vol. ii, p. 457. See also *Hist. Soc. Lanc. and Chesh.*, sess. iii, p. 60.

and an amulet (which the Rev. W. Thornber describes as like "a string of pipe stoppers of iron") much corroded and injured with the action of fire; several smaller urns which may have been lacrymatory urns (some of these latter were of half-baked clay about three inches high and were perfectly plain, in their immediate vicinity was often found the remains of human bones); several stone quearns or handmills for grinding corn; and a few coins of Hadrian. At Weeton is a cairn, supposed to be of British origin, in a gravel pit, near to which were found several urns of rude workmanship, half-baked and marked perpendicularly with dots.

Dr. Leigh states that in the morass near Salwick "was taken up a stone not unlike a sort of whetstone," and "an instrument of mixed metals resembling a securis or Roman axe."¹⁰

At Weeton a labourer picked up a bronze medal of the size of a crown,—the head in alto-relievo, and surrounded by the legend, IMP. CÆS. VESPASIAN. AUGUST; on the other side two nearly naked Britons, with caps on their heads, aprons round their loins and sandals on their feet;¹¹ and in Weeton moss pieces of wicker work were dug up which contact with the air destroyed. A gold coin of Antonine and one of Vespasian were found at Kirkham, and a medal of the same date at Weeton.¹²

Many of these remains were found by the Rev. W. Thornber, B.A., and the late Mr. Loxham of Dowbridge, and were described in the *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* at various times, as have also the finding of the ruins of the foundation of a square fortress which were of massive chiselled red sandstone, a pavement of "thick rude red brick tiles," and large quantities of "pateræ, burnt bones," &c.

After the final departure of the Romans, it may be presumed that Kirkham shared the common fate of the Fylde country, and for a time at least all progress in civilization was arrested and

¹⁰ *Nat. Hist. of Lanc.*, p. 18.

¹¹ *Hist. Soc. of Lanc. and Chesh.*, sess. vi, p. 108.

¹² Baines's *Hist. Lanc.*, vol. ii, p. 482.

the district more or less depopulated and abandoned. It would be fruitless to linger over the traditions that Paulinus preached at Kirkham when Edwin was king of Northumbria, and that a wooden church then existed here. On the accession of king Alfred to the throne Northumbria was held by the Danes, and from that period until the taking of the Domesday survey, A.D. 1086, there is almost a blank in the history of Kirkham. At this period, however, the very names of the "*vills*," as they were termed, sufficiently show by what people they had been held, for, as has been fitly said, language is "the pedigree of nations."¹³

From the Danes we have the places ending in "bye" or "bi," as Westbi and Rigbi. "Ton" or "tun," an enclosed place, is pure Anglo-Saxon; and here we have Frekeltun, Plumpton, Widetun, Wartun, Hameltun, &c. "Wick," another pure Anglo-Saxon word and meaning a protected or sheltered place, is found in Salewic (Salwick); whilst the name Kirkham is a compound of two words, "Kirk" being Danish or Scandinavian, and "ham" Anglo-Saxon,—their conjoint meaning being the church village. Again we detect the pure Norse language in Molbrick, Larbrick and other places, whose terminatives are derived from "Brecka," a gentle rise or eminence.

At the taking of the Domesday survey the whole of Amounderness was held by Roger de Poitou, and all its *vills* and its three churches belonged to Preston.¹⁴ Of the three churches then existing one was undoubtedly at Kirkham.

The following extract from *Domesday Book* will show that nearly all the districts which are comprised in the parish of Kirkham were (allowing for the difference in orthography) then recognised by the same names as at the present day.

¹³ Dr. Johnson.

¹⁴ Amounderness was given by king Athelstane to God, St. Peter and the church of York in the prelate of bishop Wulstan, and it was subsequently given by Richard II. to Theobald Walter. Gregson's *Portfolio*, p. 55.

"AMOUNDERNESS.

"Salewic¹⁵ (Salwick) one carucate; Cliftun (Clifton) two carucates; Neutune (Newton with Scales) two carucates; Frechtun (Freckleton) four carucates; Rigbi (Ribby with Wray) six carucates; Chicheham (Kirkham) four carucates; Treueles (Treales) two carucates; Westbi (Westby) two carucates; Pluntun (Little Plumpton) two carucates; Widetun (Weeton) three carucates; Pres (Preese) two carucates; Wartun (Warton) four carucates; Brune (Brining) two carucates; Singletun (Singleton) six carucates; Greneholf (Greenhalgh) three carucates; Eglestun (Little Eccleston) two carucates; Pluntun (Great Plumpton) five carucates; Hameltune (Hambleton) two carucates; Midehope (Mythorp or Mythop, in Weeton) one carucate."

At this period the district must have been very thinly populated, as out of the sixty-two places enumerated in Amounderness, it is stated that "sixteen 'vills' have few inhabitants, but how many there may be is not known; the rest are waste." From the fact that at Kirkham there was a church, it may safely be assumed that it was one of the places which had its "few inhabitants," although the surrounding neighbourhood was probably almost depopulated. The parish of Kirkham covers an area of nearly 31,000 statute acres, but, estimating a "carucate" to be equal to 100 acres, *Domesday Book* only accounts for 5,800 acres;¹⁶ the remainder must have been waste and unclaimed.

About this time Roger de Poitou forfeited his estates to the crown, but the honour of Lancaster was restored to him by William II., only, however, to be again alienated on his banishment in 2 Henry I. (1102.)¹⁷ Until the beginning of the next century little is known as to the tenure of the land in Kirkham, but it probably was given to the earl of Chester, who in the reign of Stephen held a third part of England.¹⁸ During the early part

¹⁵ Only the places in Kirkham are here given, the rest are omitted.

¹⁶ Medlar with Wesham does not appear at all, and contains 1,966 acres.

¹⁷ *Harl. MSS.*, cod. 7386.

¹⁸ Nichols's *Leicestershire*.

of the thirteenth century we begin to find the various manors or townships in the possession of the families in whose holding they remained (in some instances) for hundreds of years.

FRECKLETON gave its name to one of the early owners of its soil, and in 3 John (1201-2) R. Frekelton paid five marks for the pasture of Brechemor;¹⁹ and in the reign of Henry III. Richard de Freckelton held a fourth and an eighth of a knight's fee here and in Quintinghay, Newton and Echeliswyc, of the earl of Lincoln's fee, of whom also Alan de Singleton and Iwan de Frekelton held an eighth part of a fee, and Gilbert de Moelus, Roger de Nettelag and William de Pul had a sixteenth part of a fee.²⁰ In the year 1311 the heirs of Adam de Freckleton held of Alice the daughter and heiress of the late earl of Lincoln the manor of Frekelton (and other places) as of fee from Penwortham, paying x^d annually for castleward of Lancaster at the feast of St. John Baptist.²¹ A few years later and Ralph Frekelton appears to have held the same lands.²² In 19 Edward II. (1325-1326) Gilbert de Singleton held here a house, twelve acres of land and a mill; and in 23 Edward III. (1369) Robert de Frekelton held a messuage and two bovates of land. Nicholas de Butler, the heirs of Robert Shirburne, the heirs of sir Adam de Banaster, and Thomas the son of Gilbert Singleton were also landowners in Frekelton;²³ and early in the fifteenth century the Butlers of Rawcliff were owners of lands and messuages in this township.

WARTON.²⁴ — Baines says that this place, which was in the fee of the earl of Lincoln, belonged to the lord of Wood Plumptre, and that in the reign of king John Thomas de Bethum, son

¹⁹ *Rot. Cancell.*, 3 John, m. 5.

²⁰ *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 397.

²¹ "Tenent' duci Lanc.," see Gregson's *Portfolio*, p. 341; also *Three Lancashire Documents*, Chetham soc., vol. lxxiv, p. 22.

²² Chetham soc., vol. lxxiv, p. 45.

²³ *Lansd. MSS.*, 559, fol. 24.

²⁴ Possibly the name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Waar* — sea-weed or wreck, and *ton*: its proximity to the river would suggest this.

of Ralph de Betham of Betham in Westmoreland, by marriage with Amuria, one of the daughters and coheirs of Richard Fitz-Roger lord of Wood Plumpton, became possessed of a third of a knight's fee in Warton.²⁵ In the reign of Edward III. sir Ralph de Betham held Warton;²⁶ the last of this family was Roger de Betham, whose only child Anne married sir Robert Middleton of Leighton in the reign of Richard III.²⁷

In 25 Edward I. (1296) Edmund Crouchback the earl of Lancaster held a rent charge here of 3s. 4d.;²⁸ and in 19 Edward II. (1325-26) Gilbert de Singleton had in Warton a messuage, six bovates of land and a fourth part of the fishery in the Ribble,²⁹ and the manor was held by his descendant Richard Singleton of Broughton tower and Johanna Standishe in 1515;³⁰ and in 14 Henry VIII. (1522-23) John Singleton died seized of lands &c. in the same township.³¹

BRYNING WITH KELLARMERGH. — The first landowner here of whom we have any record is Matilda the wife of Robert Stockhord, who with others held in 2 John (1200-1) a charter for two carucates in Brichscrath Brun' and one in Kelgmersberg' by service of a fourth part of a knight's fee;³² and in the next year Robert de Stockport paid ten marks to the king instead of two palfreys in confirmation of (probably the same land) three carucates in Birstafbrun and Kelgrimesherg.³³

The same Robert de Stockport, Roger Gernet and Thomas de Bethum, a little later, held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Bustard Brining and Kelgrimisarhe.³⁴ The Bethums held possession here for several centuries after this. In the early part of the fourteenth century sir Ralph de Bethum knt. had two carves of

²⁵ Baines's *Hist. Lanc.*, vol. ii, p. 491; and *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 397.

²⁶ *Lansd. MSS.*, 559, fol. 24.

²⁷ Baines's *Hist. Lanc.*, vol. ii, p. 491.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. post mortem*, fol. 136.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, fol. 326.

³⁰ *Duc. Lanc.*, vol. i, part i, p. 19.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

³² *Rot. Char.*, 2 John, m. 8, n. 25.

³³ *Rot. Cancell.*, 3 John, m. 5.

³⁴ *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 379.

land by the fourth part of a knight's fee, paying yearly at the feast of St. John Baptist 2s. 6d. for castleward of Lancaster. At the same time John de Dampport the younger held an eighth part of a carve in Kellermargh and Bryning, and paid to the earl of Lancaster in 1297 an annual rent of 2s. 6d.³⁵ In 1311 John Baskerville had three and a half bovates in Kilgremargh hamlet; where also Thurstan de Norley, in the right of Margaret his wife, held four bovates by the payment of x^d ob. per annum for Lancaster castleward.³⁶

In 21 Edward IV. (1481) Thomas Molyneux received from the crown a grant of half the manor of Kellermargh.³⁷

RIBBY WITH WRAY. — Roger de Poitou gave the tithes of "colts, calves, lambs, kids, pigs, wheat, cheese and butter of Ribbi and Singleton" and other places to the priory of Lancaster, "for the food of the monks who should celebrate mass in the same monastery."³⁸ (See *post.*) In 3 John (1201-2) Adam de Wra and Gerard his brother paid two marks to the king for peaceable possession (unmolested by the sheriff) of the tenements they held.³⁹ Henry III. gave the manor of Riggeby to Edmund earl of Lancaster,⁴⁰ who in 1286 had a dispute with the abbot of Vale royal, whereupon the following mandate was issued.

"Edward, &c. : To the sheriff of Lancaster health. We command you that justly and without delay you make reasonable divides to be between the land of the abbot of Vale royal in Kirkeham and the land of Edmund our brother in Ribby, as ought to be and is customary to be, of which the said abbot complains that the aforesaid Edmund takes more to his fee (plus inde traxil ad feodū suū) than belongs to him. We hear that he has more claim thence from the defect of the justiciary.

³⁵ *Lanc. Survey*, 1320-46, Chetham soc., vol. lxxiv, pp. 46, 53.

³⁶ "Tenent' duci Lanc.," Gregson's *Portfolio*, p. 342.

³⁷ *Duchy Rec. Reper. A originalia*, n. 14.

³⁸ *Reg. of B. Maria, Lanc.*

³⁹ *Rot. Cancell.*, 3 John, m. 5.

⁴⁰ *Placita de Quo Warranto*, 20 Edw. I., *Lanc. Rot.*, 13 d.

"Witness, Edmund earl of Cornwall, in our council at Westminster, 25 day of June, in the 15th year of our reign." ⁴¹

In 1296-97 (25 Edward I.) earl Edmund's rental from Rigby and Wra was 19*l.* 19*s.* per annum.⁴²

In the time of the first duke of Lancaster there were in Riggeby twenty houses and twenty bovates of land and a fourth of a bovat held by bondsmen, who paid annually xix^{li} xvj^s iiij^d.

In Rigby and Wra were the following tenants: Adam the son of Richard the clerk held v acres and paid iiij^d by two half yearly payments, viz. at the feasts of the Annunciation and St. Michael. Roger Culbray held iij acres of land for ix^d. Adam son of Jordani had j acre for xij^d. Richard de Wro had half a bovat for v^d per year. William le Harpour, j bovat for xv^d ob. Adam de Kelyrumshagh, half a bovat, and paid iiij^d ob. Giles, ij acres, and paid x^d. John de Bonk^o, j bovat and j acre for x^d ob. John le Wise, xj acres for vj^d ob. William de Wogher, vj acres, ij^d ob. John de Bredkyrk, half a bovat at ix^d. Adam de Parys, ij bovates, which belonged before to John le Harpour, for iiij^s ob. Suit was due to the court of Riggeby twice a year, and after the death of a lord his successor was to receive double rent.⁴³ The lord of the soil at that time was Henry duke of Lancaster, who died on the 24th March 1361, seized of (amongst other places) "Riggeby cum le Wray."⁴⁴

The old manor house (the remains of which are now used as a cottage) stood on Wray Green. Ribby hall is a modern mansion, and is the seat of the Hornby family.

WESTBY WITH GREAT AND LITTLE PLUMPTON.—A notice of the connection which the Cliftons and the Westbys had with this district will be found in chapter X. In the reign of Edward III. John Fleetwood was lord of the manor of Plumpton Parva.⁴⁵

⁴¹ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 19 (translation).

⁴² *Cal. Inq. post mortem*, vol. i, p. 136.

⁴³ *Lansdowne MSS.*, No. 539, f. 15 (translation).

⁴⁴ *Cal. Inq. post mortem*, vol. ii, p. 234, 35 Edw. III. (1361.)

⁴⁵ D. Rasbotham's *Shorthand MSS.*, vol. v, p. 2204.

WEETON.—In 9 John I. (1207–8) the sheriff was directed to give to Matilda the wife of Theobald Walter her thirds, and to her father Robert de Vavassour seizin of his inheritance in Withton, Treveles and Roucheclive;⁴⁶ and a little later the heirs of Tebaut Walter held the third part of a knight's fee in Wytheton and Treveles.⁴⁷ The manor of Weeton descended to Theobald le Botiller, who held three carucates of land there in 33 Henry III. (1248–49);⁴⁸ and in 12 Edward III. James son of Edmund le Botiller earl of Ormond had the same. In 9 Henry IV. (1407–8) sir John Stanley had a grant of free warren in Weeton;⁴⁹ but the manor remained in the Butler family until it passed in 1673 to the ninth earl of Derby on his marriage with Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Butler lord Ossory. (Preese, see chapter X.)

MEDLAR AND WESHAM.—Baines states that the *Coucher Book* of the abbey of Cockersand contains a grant from Robert Than, prior of the brethren of the hospital of Jerusalem in England, to Gilbert Fitz-Reinfrid and his heirs of the whole of Medlar, subject to an annual rent of 8*d.* and to the king 8*s.* per annum, and to the priory half a mark of silver on the death of Gilbert and his heirs successively; and that the township was originally given to the hospitallers by Cicily, daughter of Roger and formerly wife of Benedict Gerner. But, Baines adds, “the Lancasters gave it to Cockersand; for in Henry III. (1234–35) there was instituted a suit about this carucate of land between Helias de Sciveton and William de Lancaster, whom Hereward the abbot of Cockersand had called upon to fulfil his warranty.”

The cause was afterwards decided at Lancaster, William de Lancaster giving twenty-five marks of silver to Helias de Sciveton for his quit-claim.⁵⁰ On the dissolution of Cockersand the property passed to the Westby family.

⁴⁶ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*, 9 John, m. 16.

⁴⁷ *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 379.

⁴⁸ *Inq. post mortem*, 33 Hen. III.

⁴⁹ *Rot. Chart.*, 9 Hen. IV., m. 6.

⁵⁰ Baines gives no authority for this.

GREENHALGH AND THISTLETON. — This is one of the townships having manorial rights, and which for many centuries belonged to the Butler family; but, according to *Testa de Nevill*, Adam de Bretekirke, William de Kyrkeym, Robert son of Thomas and Richard son of William held the sixth part of a knight's fee in Thisteldon, Pres and Grenell.⁵¹ In the reign of Edward I. the abbot of Cockersand claimed the privilege of waifs, infangenthef, and assize of bread and ale in Grenehole and Thistleton; and the same privilege was claimed in Hamelton, Cornay, Midelargh, Layrbrecke, Warton, Frekelton, Pres, Newton, Eccleston and Plumpton.⁵²

GREAT AND LITTLE SINGLETON. — In the eleventh century Roger de Poitou gave the tithes of Singletone and Ribì to the priory of St. Mary at Lancaster. (See *post.*) In the reign of king John, Alan de Singleton held half a carucate of land here by serjeanty of the wapentake of Amounderness, the annual value of which was x^s;⁵³ and in 20 Edward I. (1292) Thomas Singleton proved before a jury that he and his ancestors had held the manor from time immemorial, but at the same time he did not hold the whole, as Thomas de Clifton and Caterina his wife had one third of two bovates.⁵⁴ In 25 Edward I. (1296–97) earl Edmund received from Singleton an annual payment of xxj^{li} and from Singleton grangia 20s.⁵⁵

In the beginning of the fourteenth century Little Singleton became the inheritance of the Banastre family, William Banastre dying seized of the “hamlet of Singleton Parva” in 17 Edward II. (1323–24);⁵⁶ and a few years later Thomas the son of Adam Banastre held a carve of land here by serjeanty in conveying the king's bailiffs in the wapentake of Amounderness and Blackburn-

⁵¹ Fol. 397.

⁵² *Placita de Quo Warranto*, fol. 379.

⁵³ *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 401.

⁵⁴ *Placita de Quo Warranto*, Edw. I., *Lanc. Rot.*, 13 a.

⁵⁵ *Cal. Inq. post mortem*, vol. i, fol. 136.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. i, fol. 308.

shire, paying yearly 2*l*.⁵⁷ In the *Lansdowne MSS.*⁵⁸ is preserved the following notice of the tenure of the land and houses in the time of the first duke of Lancaster.

"In Syngleton there are xxj houses and xxvj bovates of land held by bondsmen, who paid annually at the feast of Easter and St. Michael xxj^{li} ix^s iij^d. And there are xj cottages with curtilages, and j croft and j piece of ground (placea t're) in the possession of tenants at will, paying per annum xxj^s vj^d. All the aforesaid bondsmen owe talliage and give marchet and heriot⁵⁹ (debent tall' et dare marchet et herie⁹), and on the death of a husband the widow pays one third part⁶⁰ of his goods to the lord. And if any one has a male fowl (pullū masculū) he must not sell it without a license. The duke of Lancaster owns the aforesaid with right to hold a court. Each of the above named bovates of land is to pay at first ij^s vj^d per annum; with work at the plough and harrow, mowing in Riggeby, and carrying provisions for the lord to Richmond, York, Doncaster, Pontefract and Newcastle, with xij horses in summer and winter. But afterwards the land was absolved from this bondage, and paid per bovate xiiij^s iij^d ob."

HAMBLETON.—In the reign of king John, Robert de Chireburne held a messuage (unum toftum) with its appurtenances in "ville de Hamilton," which he conveyed to William the son of Alexander de Hamilton and his heirs. The deed of conveyance was witnessed by dominus Richard le Botiller, William de Syngleton, Galfridus de Haccunschou, Simon de Hamilton and Alan de Haccunshou.⁶¹

Prior to 15 John (1213–14) William de Pilkinton held certain

⁵⁷ *Lanc. Survey*, Chetham soc., vol. lxxiv, p. 51.

⁵⁸ No. 559, fol. 15 (not 25, as Baines gives it).

⁵⁹ A fine anciently paid to the lord of the manor for the marriage of a tenant's daughter. This fine was paid in acknowledgment of exemption from a still older relict of barbarism.

⁶⁰ Baines says one sixth.

⁶¹ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*

lands in Hamilton at a rental of 24s., which were then given by the king to William de Colmora;⁶² subsequently, the manor having reverted to the crown, it was bestowed upon Galfridus, surnamed Balistrarius or L'Arbalistrier, who conferred it on his grandson Robert de Shyreburn, by whom it was held until 45 Henry III. (1260-61);⁶³ and in the next year it was in the possession of John de Hacunesho, whom Baines believed to have been the second son of John de Shireburne.

In 20 Edward I. (1291-92) the king's attorney sued Richard son of Geoffrey de Haucunshow for the manors of Haucuneshow and Hamelton, which he was charged with having taken from the king, to whose ancestor king Richard they had formerly belonged.

He pleaded that he was heir to his brother John, who died in possession of them as of fee; but as he was then under age the pleading was respited until he attained his majority.⁶⁴ John de Kokirham son of Adam de Tricolet de Karlton gave to Galfrius the "cappelanus de Stallmyn" and his heirs a house and appurtenances in Hamilton.⁶⁵

LITTLE ECCLESTON WITH LARBRICK. — (See chapter X.)

TREALES, ROSEACRE AND WHARLES. — In 33 Henry III. (1248-49) Theobald le Botiler died seized of lands in Rasake and Quarlons. (See chapter X.)

CLIFTON WITH SALWICK was held by the Clifton family for centuries, and a pedigree of the family is given in Baines's *History of Lancashire*. (See chapter X.)

NEWTON AND SCALES. — According to the *Testa de Nevill*,

⁶² *Rot. Lit. Claus.*, 15 John, m. 5 (1213-14).

⁶³ *Bag of Lanc. Pedes. Finium* in Chapter house.

⁶⁴ *Placita de Quo Warranto*, 20 Edw. I., (1292), *Lanc. Rot.* 5 d.

⁶⁵ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*

William Deps held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Neuton and Prees of the earl of Lincoln's fee; and on the same tenure Alan de Singleton and Warin de Quiltingham held the eighth part of a knight's fee in Neuton.⁶⁶ In 18 Edward III. (1354) Adam de Bredkirk had possessions in Neuton juxta Frekilton;⁶⁷ and in 17 Edward II. (1323-24) William de Clifton had in Scales hamlet six cottages and sixty acres of land.⁶⁸

THE TOWN OF KIRKHAM. — Kirkham was one of the first towns in Lancashire which became by royal charter entitled to hold a market and fair. This privilege was granted to Kirkham by king Henry III. in the fifty-fourth year of his reign (1269-1270).⁶⁹ And in 20 Edward I. (1292) the abbot of Vale royal, to whom the manor of Kirkham belonged, was required on a *de quo warranto* to show by what right he then held this market and fair. The abbot pleaded that Henry III. had conceded the right to his predecessors, and that the same was confirmed by Edward I. (then king) in the fifteenth year of his reign (1286-87); the claim was admitted, and orders were issued (dated Berewyk on Tweed, 15th July 1292) to the justices itinerant in the county to permit the privileges named in the several charters to be enjoyed by the abbot and convent.⁷⁰ The original charter granted in 15 Edward I. is lost, and no copy of it is known to be in existence;⁷¹ but in the old chest where are kept the archives of the bailiffs of Kirkham there is — what there is no reason to doubt — a true copy of a deed executed on the vigil of St. John, 24 Edward I. (1296), and from which we find that the manor was granted in frank-almoigne to the abbot and convent of Vale royal. The right to erect a free market was given, and the right to hold a fair of five days' duration, viz. at the Nativity of our Lord and St. John the Baptist. The borough of Kirkham to be

⁶⁶ Fol. 311.

⁶⁷ *Cal. Inq. post mortem*, vol. ii, p. 189.

⁶⁹ *Placita de Quo Warranto*, *Lanc. Rot.*, 10d.

⁷¹ Baines gives the reference to *Rot. Chart.*, 15 Edw. I., m. 8: this should be m. 88.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 307.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

a free borough and the burgesses and their heirs to be free to have a free *guild*, with all the liberties which belong to a free borough. And that there was to be in the borough a prison, a pillory, a cucking-stool and other instruments of punishment, by which malefactors might be imprisoned or punished. There was also to be assize of bread and ale and weights and measures.

The abbot and convent granted that the burgesses should have bailiffs elected of themselves, who should be presented and sworn, reserving to themselves the perquisites of courts, stallage, assize of bread and ale, &c., at the two great feasts before named. The witnesses to this grant are Radulphus de Mouroyd, William le boteler, Robert de Holonde, Henry de Kytheleye, John Venyal, Mathew de —, William de Cliftone, Thomas Travers, John de Harlowe, John de Rigmaiden, Richard de Marrays, Adam de Bradkirke and others. (See *Appendix A.*)

The right to hold a market and fair was confirmed to the abbot and convent by royal charter bearing date 2nd July, 2 Henry IV. (1401), of which the following is a translation.

“The King, to all &c. We have inspected a charter made by our progenitor, Lord Edward, formerly king of England, in these words: ‘Edward by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland and duke of Aquitaine, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, provosts, ministers, and to all his bailiffs and subjects, health: Know that we have granted and by this our present charter have confirmed to our beloved in Christ the abbot and convent of Vale royal, that they and their successors for ever shall have a market in each week on Thursday at their manor of Kirkham in the county of Lancaster, and a fair there in each year of five days’ duration, viz. on the vigil and on the day and on the morrow of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and for two days following. Unless the market and fair be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs. Therefore we wish and firmly enjoin for us and our heirs that the aforesaid abbot and convent and their successors

for ever shall have the aforesaid market and fair at their aforesaid manor, with all the liberties and free customs belonging to a market and fair of that kind, unless that market and fair be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs as is aforesaid.

“These being witnesses: The venerable fathers Robert Bath and Wells, John Winchester and Anthony Durham, bishops; William de Valence our uncle, Henry de Lacy earl of Lincoln, master Henry de Newerk archdeacon of Richmond, master William de Luda archdeacon of Durham, master William de Cornere dean of Wymburne, John de St. John, William de Latymer, and others. Given by our hand at Bourdeaux on the twenty-first of January, in the fifteenth year of our reign. We however holding the aforesaid charter and all things contained in it authentic and acceptable for ourselves and our heirs as much as in us is, accept, approve and to our beloved in Christ the present abbot and convent of the aforesaid place and their successors, we grant and confirm that the aforesaid charter be considered just and that the same abbot and convent and their predecessors legally had and held the said market and fair before these times. In testimony thereof &c. Witness the king at Westminster on the 2nd day of July. For one mark paid *in hanapio*.”⁷²

Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent dated 6th July 1560, ratified and confirmed all previous charters. From an order in the duchy court of Lancaster made 10th June, 17 James I. (1619), we find that the bailiffs and burgesses had then exhibited a petition in which they alleged that “the town of Kirkham had been used as an ancient market fair and that the inhabitants had time out of mind [been] accounted a corporation and to have been incorporated by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses,” &c.;⁷³ and

⁷² *Pat. Rolls*, 2 Hen. IV., p. 3, m. 5 n. (Duchy office.) Paid “*in hanaperio*” refers to the hanaper office of the court, which was so called because its writs were kept in a *hanaper* or small basket.

⁷³ A confirmation 21st January, 15 Edw. IV., is named, of which no mention is found elsewhere.

(after reciting the various charters already named) they state "that in as much as then of late some of the bailiffs being but simple and weak men and the inhabitants being but poor and many and the confluence of people to fair and markets so great, the same could not be so well governed as befitted so great people unless according to the s^d usages the s^d bailiffs and burgesses might elect into their government some men of account dwelling near s^d town, and that it might be declared that the bailiffs &c. had lawful power to correct malefactors and offenders" &c. An order was thereupon given that the bailiffs and burgesses should "henceforth have and enjoy their ancient usages."⁷⁴

The following extracts from the minute book of the bailiffs will illustrate many of the old customs which have since fallen into disuse.⁷⁵

"Sep. 22^d 1680.

"Rec^d of Richard Dickson for his freedom 00*l*. 12*s*. 00*d*." ⁷⁶

1681.

"W^m Hunt fined 1*s*. for keeping his geese in the loanes" [lanes]. The jury presented to the lord's court sundry encroachments upon the lord's waste, amongst the rest "the Moote hall 15 feet in length and 10 in breadth."⁷⁷ They also presented "John Wilding for keeping a greyhound not being qualified."⁷⁸

The following is the first list of jury, &c.

⁷⁴ *MS.* in possession of the bailiffs.

⁷⁵ Contained in an old calf-bound 4to vol. now in the Clifton estate office. On the fly leaf is written, "This book was begun the 20 day of September 1680 for the use of the parish of Kirkham."

⁷⁶ This paying for freedom of the town was continued until far into the next century. In 1725 an action was taken against William Marsden, who set up in Kirkham as a tanner and refused to pay 5*s*. per annum for his freedom, which was "the first instance that can be given of a person refusing to pay the sum assessed." *MS.* in bailiffs' possession.

⁷⁷ That is, 15 × 10 ft. was an encroachment.

⁷⁸ By act 1 James I. the qualification was 10*l*. a year in freehold, or 200*l*. in goods and chattels, excepting in the case of sons of knights, esquires, or members of parliament.

"13 Oct. 1681.

"The court leet houlden at Kirkham y^e day above written by Tho. Hodgkinson Stuart.

"Juriers

James Smith, junior.	John Hanson.	Geffrey Woode.
James Lawson.	Tho. Tomlinson.	Alex. Lawder.
John Dickson.	Henry Smith.	Charles fale.
With Butler.	James Hull.	With Hornby.
James Clayton.	George Whiteside.	Tho. Shardley.

"Bayliffes

Geffrey Woode.	} John Colly, serjeant.
Tho. Tomlinson.	

James Hull, constable."

Then follow the names of the "Gauldlayers," "Barleymen" [or Bylomen], "Prizards," "Leather searchards," "fflesh and fish viewards."

"1682.

"It is ordered by this jury that Sir Thos. Clifton or his farmer shall cause the water course in the cloyce to be done sufficiently in the antient and accustomed place before 1st Dec. next on pain of 6s. 8*d*."

It was also ordered that "no butchers nor any other person shall after 22 days of this inst., Oct. 1682, teem or empty any panches great or small into the street, or shall lay any skins in any part of the street to dry in pain of every one making default 6s. 8*d*."

The record of this year's proceedings includes a description of the boundaries of the manor which had at the dissolution of the monasteries passed to Henry VIII., who had granted it to the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford, the burgesses paying after the following rates, viz. for eighteen oxgangs of land 9*l*. per annum and a common fine at the end of every tenth year of 6s. 8*d*. per oxgang. The manor was then bordered "on the east upon y^e lands of Edward Robinson and George Browne lying within Newton-cū-Scales; and westward upon the lands of S^r Thomas Clifton within Westby and upon the lands of Christo-

pher Parker esq^r lying in Ribby-cū-Wrea; and north upon the lands of M^{rs} Dorothy Westby of Mowbrick and the lands of M^r Edward Fleetwood of Wessam; and south upon the lands of M^r George Sharples of freckleton."

The jury "presented that the earl of Derby, M^r Westby of Mowbrick, M^r Hesketh of Maines, were constantly called at the court leet for the borough of Kirkham and antiently did either appear or some assign for them, but now of late they do not appear nor any assign for them."

The jury resolved "that John Wade should not harbour the wife of Robert Fisher after the 9th day inst., but for every night that he shall keep her after the 9th he shall pay 3s. 4d."

	£	s.	d.
"4 May 1683.			
"Rec ^d of Richard Riley for his freedom within the borow of Kirkham	00	16	00
May the 4th day, Rec ^d of Rodger Taylor for his freedom in Kirkham	01	00	00
Octo. 19th, Rec ^d of Thomas sherdley for his freedom	00	02	00"

On the 4th May it was "ordered that no person shall set or let any house or shop to Richard Blackburne or his wife that stands within the liberties in Kirkham in pain of 2*l.* os. *od.*" On Nov. 16th a similar order is issued against William Hornby of Wesham, blacksmith, who "for every week exercising the trade or stile of blacksmith within the town shall forfeit for every week 40s." W^m Lowde⁷⁹ was presented and fined 10s. for in defiance of this order letting a shop to William Hornby.

"Oct. 21 anno 1684.

"The day and yeare aboue said John Battle and Edward Loxham then compounded wth the towne for their freedom. And

⁷⁹ William Lowde, son of James Lowde of Kirkham, was a descendant of the Lowdes of Ridding, county of Lancaster, and a pedigree of the family is recorded in Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1664-65. James Lowde married Margaret, the daughter of William Walker of Kirkham.

it is agreed to pay either fifty-five shillings and the yearley pay to cease."

12 Oct. 1686.

Prudence Cardwell was presented "for not making her bread sufficient in goodness and weight and fined in 12*d*."

Nov. 17. "It is ordered that Nicholas Wilkinson shall pay unto the bailiffs 13*s*. 4*d*. for one year's trading in the town."

May 3 1688.⁸⁰

William Taylor was presented "for keeping and shooting *in* a gun" and fined 2*s*. 6*d*. The incorrigible John Wilding was also fined 3*s*. 4*d*. "for coursing and killing a hayre."

14 Oct. 1689.

The court is this year termed the "Court leet of frank pledg of y^e foundation of Henry the eight."

30 Mar. 1690.

Cornelius Langton agreed to compound for his freedom, paying 30*s*. for the same.

William Taylor presented and fined 6*s*. 8*d*. "for gaming in his house."

30 April 1692.

"Ordered that if any hereafter suffer their swine to ly out in the night time [they] shall forfeit for every night 3*s*. 4*d*."

13 April 1697.

The jury order that no one shall "dry or brake any flax or hemp in their fire house on pain of 20*s*."

26 April 1699.

It is ordered that "neither W^m Boone nor Rowland Roberts maltmakers nor any *as* they employ shall not dry any malt nor weete any dry barley upon the Sabbath day for the time to come in the pain of 20*s*." Rowland Roberts was fined 3*s*. 4*d*. for "disobeying the constable's commands in not assisting to carry away poor lame passengers."

⁸⁰ In this year amongst the jury is John Sharples, and one of the barleymen is Cuthbert Harrison.

13 Oct. "We present these persons for want of their appearance at court & so fine every one of them 12*d*.

With George Ric. Earl of Derby,
 Tho. Westby esq^r, Tho. Hesketh esq^r,
 John Walker esq^r, Jennet Thompson widow,
 and Thomas Dickson."

1701.

The Moote hall was presented as then out of repair.

22 April 1707.

Orders given that "every person that shall carry away any fire thro' the street to cover the same close on penalty of 10*s*."

April 1713.

It is ordered that "no person sh^d water any sort of cattle at the bucket belonging to the town well nor wash any skins at the trough."

13 April 1714.

It is ordered that no one "shall winnow any barley within 10 yds. of Jas. Wood's Frekleton St. House door under penalty of 3*s*. 4*d*."

10 May 1715.

"We fine Charles Hardy for harbouring and lodging of vagrants and beggars in this town in 13*s*. 4*d*."

The meetings at this time were always held in the Moot hall.

22 May 1726.

"Mem. That the town of Kirkham was summonsed from house to house & the inhabitants unanimously agreed to the setting up of a workhouse."

30 Nov. 1738.

It was agreed that "a lamp should be fixed up in the middle of the borough of Kirkham in some convenient place & that the charge of it together with oyl necessary for it be paid out of the town's stock." It was also ordered that "all persons refusing to clean or cow⁸¹ the streets opposite their respective houses

⁸¹ To *cow* is an old Lancashire term, meaning to scrape with a cow-rake.

should be fined 6*d.* after notice from the serjeant with his bell."

The volume from which these extracts are taken closes with the year 1743. The Town hall or Moot hall was destroyed by fire some eighty years ago; it formerly stood in the Market place; the ground floor was occupied by shop-keepers, and part of the upper story was used as a flax-dressing room, the remaining space being taken up by the large room in which the town's business was transacted. This room was approached from the outside by a flight of stone steps.

The seal of the borough is a dove with an olive branch in its mouth. The original seal is still in the possession of the bailiffs, but it is not in a perfect state of preservation.

After the dissolution of the monasteries the manor of Kirkham was conferred upon the dean and chapter of Christ church college, Oxford, who conveyed it to the Cliftons of Lytham as the fee farmers, who annually held a court leet in June when the bailiffs for the borough were nominated. Langton Birley esq. is now the lord of the manor.

For the military muster of the county in 1553 Kirkham was called on to furnish men as follows: Warton six, Clifton six, Freckleton five, Thistleton eight, Newton and Scales three, Weeton three, Treales six, Little Eccleston and Larbrick six, Little Singleton five, Westby and Plumpton eight, Ribby and Wray eight, Bryning and Kellamergh five, Kirkham three, and Wesham one.⁸²

During the time of the civil wars of the seventeenth century the dwellers in this usually peaceful parish must have been stirred with unwonted excitement, for not only were companies of recruits raised in the district, but the armies of the contending parties on several occasions passed through their midst. For colonel Rigby's parliamentary force "Mr. William Pateson of Ribbie" had half the parish to raise a company in, and "Mr. Richard Wilding" had the other half. "Mr. Richard Smith and

⁸² *Harl. MSS.* (see *Lanc. Lieut.*, Chetham soc., vol. xlix.)

Mr. Georg Carten of Hambleton" were made captains over companies raised at Stalmin, Hambleton and neighbourhood.

One of the most active parliamentary officers in this district, major Edward Robinson, lived at Newton with Scales, and afterwards at Westby hall, and is believed to have been the author of the *Discourse of the Warr in Lancashire*.⁸³

For the king's army under colonel Thomas Tyldesley there were captain Edward Bradley of Bryning, captain — Butler of Kirkham, and others.⁸⁴

After the siege of Preston in 1643 the earl of Derby quartered his troops in Kirkham, making his head quarters at Lytham hall, and by warrant ordered all men over sixteen years of age to appear before him at Kirkham "in their best weapons, to attend the king's service," and they were then under threats of death compelled to march forward to Lancaster. One of the captains over the men thus raised was John Hoole of Singleton.⁸⁵

In August 1644 the whole parish was filled with the royalist army, the rendezvous being Freckleton marsh, and against them there marched sir John Meldrum; he however was too late, as the king's army had already commenced to cross the Ribble, and before their pursuers could reach them they had all passed over and marched on towards Meols.⁸⁶

It will not be necessary here to pursue the general history of the parish after the close of the civil wars, as that will be found in the details contained in the succeeding chapters. The ancient fairs are nearly all obsolete; but fairs are now held on the 4th and 5th of February, the 28th and 29th of April, and the 18th and 19th of October. Like most of the towns in Lancashire, Kirkham has now its cotton mills, besides which there are flax mills and other manufactories. The population in 1694, in the fifteen townships, was 4,161, of which 405 were of the town of Kirkham. In 1790 there were in Kirkham 322 houses, 695 males, and 754 females; of these 363 lived in Preston street,

⁸³ Chetham soc., vol. lxii, pp. xxiv. *et seq.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 19, 42.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 56.

which consisted of 94 houses.⁸⁷ Between 1821 and 1851 the population of the parish decreased by 1000; in the latter year there were 8,796 inhabitants, in 1861 there were 9,555, and in 1871 there were 9,963.

Although there are still bailiffs of Kirkham elected, the affairs of the town are managed by a local board of health.

⁸⁷ Town's book (bailiffs' accounts).

CHAPTER II.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE church of Kirkham is undoubtedly one of the oldest foundations in Lancashire; and it was one of three churches which were named in *Domesday Book* as at that time existing in Amounderness, which was then part of the vast possessions of Roger earl of Poictou, who "for the health of his soul, and for the health of Roger of Shrewsbury his father, and of his mother Mabil the countess, also for his brother and for all friends, gave to God and St. Martin the church of St. Mary of Lancaster," and by the same charter conferred upon the priory of St. Mary the church of Kirkham.¹

How long Kirkham remained in the holding of this priory is not known, but it could not have been for many years, as it appears to have again reverted to its former owner, who gave it to the convent of Shrewsbury, as is set forth in the charter of William archbishop of York,² who asserts that "the monks of Salop in the time of my ancestors were frequently making complaints that the church was unjustly deprived of the church of Kirckham, because it had been lawfully given to it by Roger count of Poictous, and confirmed by Thomas³ archbishop, by authority of grants under seal. At length they have come into our presence to lay before us their complaints; and we, thus constrained and

¹ *Reg. Mon. B. Marie de Lancaster, Harl. MSS.*, No. 3765, f. 1.

² William archbishop of York died on the 8th June 1154. *Le Neve's Fast. Eccl. Angl.*

³ Thomas I. archbishop of York died November 1100, and Thomas II. died February 1113-14.

by the command of lord Henry legate of the apostolical see, committed their cause to be brought before the synod of York," and it was there decided "that the aforesaid church should be restored to the church of Peter of Salop;" and in consequence another charter was issued by William the archbishop, testifying that the synod of York had "seen these writings concerning the confirmation of the church of Kirkham which the monks of Salop had sealed with the seal of Thomas archbishop, formerly by misfortune burnt, which burning was made at Pontefract."⁴

In the year 1195-96 it was still appertaining to the abbot of Shrewsbury; but about that time "a great controversy arose between Theobald Walter on the one part and the abbot of Shrewsbury on the other, concerning the right of patronage of the church, which was thus settled. For a certain fine was levied in the king's court that the abbot and his successors should receive from the church of Kirkham a pension of xij marks a year, and Theobald himself should for ever remain the true patron of the said church."⁵

In 6 Richard I. (1194-95) Adam the dean of Kirkham and Richard the clerk essoined themselves on a plea against Theobald Walter, about the advowson of the church of Kirkham;⁶ and shortly afterwards king John, as the ward of the heirs of Theobald Walter, granted two parts of the church to Simon Blund, the value of which was iiij-xx (four score) marks,⁷ and in 1213-14 he granted the whole to W. Gray chancellor for life.⁸ Edward I. claimed the advowson of Kirkham church, alleging that his father had held it, not as the ward of the heir of Theobald Walter, but in his own right. This was disputed by Theobald le Botiler⁹ (heir of Theobald Walter); but after some litigation he presented himself in the king's bench and acknowledged

⁴ *Vide* Dugdale's *Monast.* for the charter in the original Latin.

⁵ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 27.

⁶ *Curia Regis*, 6 Ric. I., m. 15.

⁷ *Testa de Nevill*, f. 371.

⁸ *Cal. Rot. Chart.*, 15 John, m. 3, n. 15.

⁹ Elsewhere called Theobald Walter. He was living in the time of Henry III. Dugdale's *Baron.*, vol. i, p. 634.

that the patronage of the church did belong to the king.¹⁰ And accordingly Edward I. conveyed the advowson of Kirkham church, and its chapel and whatever belonged to it, to the abbot and convent of Vale royal by a charter dated at Westminster 5th December 1280.¹¹ (See *Appendix B*).

In 1286 Otto de Grandison obtained a bull from pope Honorius IV., by which the advowson was conferred upon the abbey of Vale royal for ever,¹² and on the 27th January 1287 the king confirmed his previous grant.¹³

It appears somewhat singular that, notwithstanding these grants, the abbot of Vale royal was in 1327 summoned by William de Mellin¹⁴ archbishop of York to show by what right the convent claimed the church of Kirkham. This edict was published by the dean of Amounderness in Kirkham church, and by it the abbot and convent, or one of their body, was ordered to appear before the venerable father archbishop of York, in the cathedral of that city, on the "third lawful day after the Sunday on which is sung *Quasi modo geniti vira et munita*."¹⁵ Accordingly, at a chapter of Vale royal held 6th April 1328, "brother Walter Wallenis," a monk of the order, was ordained procurator and appeared before the archbishop of York at the time appointed, when he exhibited the charter of Edward I., the bull of appropriation, and letters of various archdeacons of acceptance and ratification of the appropriation; and by these he maintains that his monastery has a right to the church, with all its chapels, fruits, rents, provention and obvention belonging thereto, and that the same is notorious in the archdeaconry of Richmond. In further proof he brings four witnesses: master William de Cotton advocate in the court of York, who said

¹⁰ *Final. Concord.*, Harl. MSS., No. 2064, f. 28.

¹¹ *Charter Roll*, No. 74, 9 Edw. I., No. 88, m. 11.

¹² Harl. MSS., No. 2064, f. 27.

¹³ *Rot. Chart.*, 15 Edw. I., No. 8, m. 3.

¹⁴ Archbishop of York 1315-16 to 1340.

¹⁵ These are the first words of the mass which is sung on Low Sunday (*Quasi modo Sunday*) i.e. the Sunday after Easter.

that he for eighteen years and more had known the abbot and convent to be the rectors of Kirkham church; John de Bredkirk *litteratus* said that he had known Kirkham church for forty years and more, as he had been a parishioner since his birth, and that the rectors thereof are the religious men of Vale royal, and that they obtained it from Edward I., and that he had often seen the charter confirming the same, as for fifteen years he had been in the service of the monastery, and while the present archbishop of York had for three years had the church of Kirkham in farm for Vale royal, twelve years ago, he (John de Bredkirk) had carried the money raised from the said church to the archbishop at York; Robert de Staneford, a native of Kirkham and then living in Amounderness, aged thirty years, gave evidence to the same effect, and had himself seen the charter and confirmation; Robert de Blundeston, living at the monastery of Vale royal, bore witness that on Friday next after *Quasi modo* Sunday, 1328, Roger de Nasyngton, public notary, having compared the copy of the attestations with the originals, with John de Withyngham [or Willingham] and Simon de Appelby clerks, in the greater church of York, dismissed the lord abbot on the letter of the archbishop, by the magistrate William de Stanes, official of the court of York.¹⁶

Edward III. issued a writ dated at York 26th January 1334 to the sheriff¹⁷ of Lancashire, setting forth that Edward I. had granted to the prelates and clergy that distrainments should not be made on rectors of churches by the sheriff in the king's highway, or in fiefs with which churches were formerly endowed, and yet that he (the sheriff) had "under pretext of his office lately entered into the lands and tenements near Kirkham which are of the endowment of that church, and had heavily distrained the abbot of Vale royal, parson of that church," and he is therefore ordered to relinquish the same, and in future "by no means to

¹⁶ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 25 and 25b.

¹⁷ Robert Foucher was sheriff of Lancashire, A.D. 1333-34.

attempt to make any distrain in the lands and tenements which are of the endowment of the aforesaid church.”¹⁸

Shortly after the death of Edward II. a certain monk of Shrewsbury called Adam¹⁹ brought an action which is called *scire facias* against the abbot of Vale royal, by name Peter,²⁰ for five hundred marks, which were said to be arrears of the twelve marks per annum recovered from Theobald Walter (see p. 29); but the abbot Peter, “a most wise man, redeemed that writ and many others from the sheriff of Lancashire,” yet after many days of controversy he failed to bring the matter to a favourable termination. But after the death of Peter suit was renewed against his successor Robert de Cheyneston, who “manfully opposed the abbot of Shrewsbury” and went up to London about it, taking with him Thomas del More and William de Oxonia; and after “many allegations of each party he gave to the abbot of Shrewsbury 100*l.* to pay his labours and expenses,” and thus the case was finally settled about the year 1343.²¹

In 1357 cardinal John Thoresby archbishop of York made a new ordination of the vicarage of Kirkham, whereby it was ordained that the abbot and convent of Vale royal should present one of their own monastery to the living. And it was also then settled that forty marks were to be paid to the vicar by the abbot and convent, by two equal portions at Martinmas and Easter; he being held responsible for the maintenance of the parsonage house and the ordinary duties of the cure.²² Not long after this an attempt was made to wrest the right of appointment from the abbot, in consequence of which Edward III. issued a writ dated at Westminster 6th February 1364 to his “select and faithful Adam de Hoghton, Robert de Singulton and William de Bredkyrke,” informing them that “a certain person suggesting

¹⁸ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 27.

¹⁹ Adam de Clebury received the temporalities of Shrewsbury abbey 2nd July 1332. His successor was appointed 3rd August 1385.

²⁰ Peter was abbot in 1327. His successor was appointed 1342.

²¹ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 27.

²² *Ex Register Cur. Arch. Ebor.*

in the Roman court that the vicarage of the church was vacant, and that the collation of it belonged to that court, had procured a certain provision to be thence made for him, and by this seeks to occupy that vicarage and dispossess the abbot of his right, in contempt of us;" and they are therefore ordered at once to inquire by "the oath of good and lawful men" of the county of Lancaster, into the true state of the case, and for that purpose the sheriff of the county was to summon together such witnesses as they might require.²³ The immediate result of this is not known, but it is certain that the convent of Vale royal held the church until the monastery was dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII.,²⁴ when it was given to the dean and chapter of Christ church college, Oxford, who are the present patrons.

The *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, rates the church of Kirkham at 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, the old tax being 160*l.*; and the vicarage at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, which was formerly 23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; whilst the return of Edward III. (*Nonarum Inquisitiones*)²⁵ makes the ancient tax two hundred and forty marks, and the then value fourscore marks, of which the various townships bear their proportions as follows: Clifton, lxvj*s.*; Newton, xlv*s.* viij*d.*; Frekleton, lxj*s.*; Warton, xlv*s.* viij*d.*; Brining, xlvij*s.* viij*d.*; Rygby, liiij*s.* iiij*d.*; Westby, xliij*s.* iiij*d.*; Weton, xlvij*s.* viij*d.*; Syngleton, lxxiiij*s.* iiij*d.*; Hambleton, xlvj*s.*; Layrebret, lvij*s.* viij*d.*; Thistleton, xlix*s.*; Westsum (Wesham), xxxviij*s.* iiij*d.*; Treuels (Treales), lxxiiij*s.* iiij*d.*; Kyrkham, xlj*s.*²⁶ Two centuries later the benefice of Kirkham was valued at little over 21*l.*²⁶

²³ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 27b-28 (the return of the writ has not been found).

²⁴ Perhaps it was bestowed by the king on cardinal Wolsey, who gave it to his favourite college.

²⁵ Completed A.D. 1341.

²⁶ In the ledger of Vale royal is the following memorandum of tithes. Wessom, Molbrecke et Bredkyke, 53*s.* 4*d.*; Trevelly (Treales), 5*li.*; Sallwecke cū le More houses, 33*s.* 4*d.*; Clyfton, 8 marc; Newton cū le Scales, 6*li.*; Frekylton, 8*li.*; Warton, Bonkhouse et Conoburn, 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Kellmergh Bryning, 4*li.*; Rigbye cū le Wraa, 4*li.*; Westby, Plumpton et Plumpton, 4*li.*; Wethynton, Preese et Swartbrecke, 4*li.*; Greenehalgh, Estbrecke cū Whyttern, 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Thystyllton 4 marc; Singleton, Singleton cū le grang', 10*li.*; Larbrecke, Eccleston cū le Wall', 4*li.*; Hamylton, 5*li.*; Rasakyr et Wherlows, 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Kirkham, 4*li.*

In the year 1337 the abbot of Vale royal and sir William de Clifton knight were engaged in a fierce contest about the tithes of Clifton and Westby, which the latter had offered to purchase for twenty marks, and which the former declined to accept. The abbot preferred the following charge against sir William Clifton, viz.: That he thrust with a lance at a brother of the monastery in the presence of the abbot and convent—that he had kept to himself twenty marks which he was bound in writing to pay to the abbot, in order to weary him with expenses and labours—that it was the custom time out of mind for the parishioners of Kirkham to carry their tithe-corn to their barns, and there keep it until the ministers of the rector came for it; but that he (sir William Clifton) in contempt of the church had left his tithes and those of his tenants to waste and rot, and very often by force and arms drove away the tithe collectors: he also obliged a cart of the rector's, laden with hay, to stand in the field for upwards of a month, and in derision made the rector's mare into a hunting palfrey: he also failed to keep the tithes of his calves, pigeons, orchards, huntings and hawkings, and would not allow the procurator under peril of death to enter his land, but he and his satellites irreverently entered the sanctuary of God, and assailed the priests and clerks and impeded them in the discharge of their duty. Moreover the aforesaid knight did not allow those of his tenants who were living in open sin to be corrected or punished by the ordinaries. He had in contempt of the church had his infant baptised without the baptismal font of the parish church. Besides all this he had ordered Thomas the clerk of the abbot to be scourged in the town of Preston, even to the effusion of blood, and this was approved and accepted by many standing by,²⁷ who were assenting to the knight in these things; their names were Richard de Plumpton, Richard de Tresale, Henry his brother, Nicholas Catfort, William the provost, Wil-

²⁷ The monkish scribe here unwittingly gave evidence of the popularity of the knight's cause.

liam son of Jordan, John Denee, William Sictore, William his son, Robert Carter, John Garlegh, Adam the son of Thomas de Scales, Richard Walker, William son of William the provost, John the son of Agnes, John Mydelar, Henry Thillon, Thomas the son of Adekoe, William Randell, Adam del Wodes, John de Reste, William de Mydelar, John the son of Richard, William Faber [Smith] de Morhouse, Thomas de Wytacres, William son of Roger Danays, Robert de Scyngulton, John the miller of Westby and Alexander the pynder of Clifton, Adam the harper²⁸ and Thomas de Wolfall. All these things were related by the abbot to the lord abbot of Westminster, the conservator of the rights &c. of the Cistercian order, who commanded that sir William Clifton and all the others should be cited to appear before him at Westminster; this was done, but none of them answered to the summons. After some little delay it was arranged that the matter should be decided by arbitration. The judgment of the arbitrators was that sir William Clifton should openly confess himself guilty of the charges laid to him, and for himself and all the above named should ask pardon and absolution, submitting himself to the will and grace of the abbot: he was also to pay the twenty marks, and to settle with the abbot for the tithes destroyed or detained by him. Sir William Clifton bound himself to do all these things by oath, and all the rest brought at their own expense a large wax candle, which was carried round the church of Kirkham on the feast of palms and offered to the blessed St. Michael, at the same time binding themselves by oath never more to do anything to the injury of Kirkham church. The arbitrators on the abbot's side were sir William Baldreston rector of St. Michael's, and his brother sir Robert rector of some other church, and sir Richard de Ewyas monk of Deulacres; on behalf of the knight were William Laurence, John de Crofton and sir Robert Mareys.²⁹ It is

²⁸ This Adam the harper took out a writ of the fourth part of the Kirkham water mill. *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 27.

²⁹ *Harl. MSS.*, No. 2064, f. 14b (Vale royal ledger, f. 18).

but fair to the memory of sir William Clifton to add that this account is an entirely *ex parte* one, being the record made by the monks themselves.

Amongst the gifts (or *servitii*) which were sent to Peter the abbot against the feast of assumption of the blessed Virgin in 1330 were: from John de Bredkyrk one ox, thirteen capons and one *purpays* (porpoise), value 10s.; and from the "comitate de Kyrkham" one ox of the value of 13s. 4d.

In 15 Henry VIII. (1523-24) the abbot of Vale royal appealed to the duchy court against Arthur Houghton gentleman, who is described as a "mighty power and so kynned and alyed in the countie and so borne and meyntened by his said alyes" that the venerable father has little chance against him. The grievance complained of is that he had "without any manner of ground or title of right entered into the psonage of Kyrkham and withold and kept it" from its lawful owners, the abbot and convent.³⁰

About three years before the dissolution of the monastery the abbot of Vale royal granted the manor and parsonage and the fines &c. to Thomas Clifton of Westby esq., who devised them to his son Cuthbert Clifton, who by will left them to his son Thomas Clifton, who in 24 Elizabeth (1582) pleaded in the court of Lancaster against Richard Davies of Kirkham, "a very troblesome and busye felowe," who had wrongfully entered upon the premises.³¹ The Clifton family held the manor and parsonage for a long period.

Kirkham church was dedicated to St. Michael, and the advowson of it in 1586 was held (by lease) by James Smith yeoman of Kirkham; and on the 8th December 1591 it was granted for twenty-one years, by the dean and chapter of Christ's church, Oxford, to John Sharples (of Frekleton).³²

At the time of the Parliamentary survey (1650) the tithes of Kirkham were "leased to Thomas Clifton esq., a papist delinquent, under a yearly rent paid to the college, the said rent

³⁰ *Record Office*, 15 Hen. VIII., vol. vi. H. D. p. y. 4.

³¹ *Record Office*, 24 Eliz., 81, c. 17.

³² *Dean and Chapter Records*, Oxford.

being uncertain, rying or falling according to the prise of corne or greyne sold at the markett att Oxford," and they were then "under sequestration for the delinquency of Mr. Clifton." The tithes of Little Eccleston with Larbrick, Freckleton, Bryning with Kellermargh, Thistleton and Hambleton then were held by Pennyston Whalley esq. in right of his wife Margaret, late wife of Cuthbert Clifton gentleman deceased, by assignment from Thomas Clifton for some years.³³

There is record of one chantry only in Kirkham church, and that was founded by Richard Clifton of Clifton esq. sometime during the fifteenth century. It appears to have been known as the chantry of "the holy Crucifix," and also as that of "our blessed Lady." On 1st July 1444 the founder had a licence granted to him for the performance of divine service by a fit chaplain within his oratories of Westby and Clifton;³⁴ and on 14th March 1452-53 John Clarke was chaplain at the church of Kirkham, and probably ministered at the altar; and on 29th April 1469 "letters dimissory" were granted to John Williamson of Kirkham, whose name afterwards occurs as "capellanus de Kirkham."³⁵ At the time of the suppression of the chantries in Lancashire Thomas Prymbett was the priest incumbent, who in 1553 received a pension of 5*l*.³⁶ He died 19th July 1564, and by his will directed that he should be buried in the parish church of Lytham. Amongst other items in his will are: "to olde maystres Cliftoun a crowne of golde;" "to three childre of Edward Huttesonn all my gowne save one;" "to Thomas Rogerley my godsonn a blewe worsted jacked and a blewe worsted doblett;" "to Kirkham kirk my sirples."³⁷ The chantry was then endowed with lands and tenements of the annual clear value of 5*l*. 13*s*., the particulars of which will be found in vol. lx, pp. 214-15, of the Chetham society's publications. In 1548

³³ *Parl. Survey*, Lamb. library.

³⁴ These oratories may have been private ones in Westby and Clifton halls.

³⁵ *Chet. Soc.*, vol. lx, p. 214.

³⁶ Willis's *Mitr. Abb.*, vol. ii, p. 108.

³⁷ *Richmond Wills* (Surtees Soc.), p. 171.

a lease of it was granted for sixteen years to Laurence Pemberton, at a rental of *vj^{li} vj^d*; ³⁸ and in 9 Elizabeth (1566-67) John Browyng, Richard Gornyt, Nicholas Cowbern and others, being "the tenants of the tenants and farmers of the queen's messuages &c. in Kirkham, Frekelton and Bilesborowe, late belonging to a chauntrell at Kirkham, called our Ladyes chauntree," commenced suit against Henry Barrow, who had married the widow of Laurence Pemberton, and thus come into possession of the aforesaid lease. Now it appears ³⁹ that the tenants had paid to Laurence Pemberton certain sums of money by way of fine, and they now plead that they "have been ready in all musters before the queen's commissioners, and have served with their persons and their substance as appointed, so that they have been ready both with their bodies and goods to discharge all manner of service demanded of them of the said lands, so that the said Barrow never was demanded nor put to any charge on that account. The said Henry Barrow, perceiving your orators to be symple people and ignorant persons, of his covetous and subtile mynde threatened them that unless they gave him certain sums of money he would compel them, after they had done all the service required by the commissioners, to serve in their own persons in the same wars of the same time, or else he would cast them out of their houses, by reason whereof, havinge no other habitations, they were put into such fear that they were glad to make hard shift, and to offer him money accordynge to his request, and not being able to satisfy his gredy desire, have of late refused to do the service he appointed, and to give him any more money or any new fines and incomes; then he threatens them that he will so handle them that before we have done he will make them all *a begge*; and as they are informed his intent is to surrender the ground lease, and that done he will either cast them with their wives and small children out of their houses, or else to exact such unreasonable fines as they cannot

³⁸ *Duchy Records*, chap. xxv, bundle v, No. 45.

³⁹ The original manuscript is illegible in some parts.

give, and make them, their wives and children, to the number of a hundred persons or more, to beg for their living." The petitioners pray that they may have leases granted to them.⁴⁰ This chantry was no doubt in what was known as the Clifton or Salwick chapel, which was to the south of the chancel and in line with it, and about the year 1780 was, with the consent of Mr. Clifton, enclosed within the communion rails, as it had not been used for a very long time. When the church was rebuilt in 1820 (see *post*) a dispute arose about this chapel, and an agreement was come to that the portion formerly used as a chapel should be rebuilt in conformity with the body of the church.⁴¹

The following particulars and extracts are from a manuscript, which in 1790⁴² was "much defaced and torn," and was probably written by the same person as the account of the Free grammar school. (See *post*). It is entitled "A plaine and true relation touching those two quyres or pewes in the church of Kirkham which carries the name of Mr. Cliftons quyre and Mr. Westbys quyre."

The author proposes to decide "whether in right proprietie they be theirs absolutely their owne, or they be the parishes and carry their names;" and he labours very hard to prove that they belong solely to the parish. He admits that they were separated from the rest of the church, but denies that "rayling or separating of these parts from the rest can give any right title to the person who mad cost thereof, for it is seen and knowne that divers have mad peues or stales for themselves and families, that when the order came for uniformitie were all pulled up * * * unless it is made appear that * * * their ancestors builded and it was alwaies till that tyme maintayned by that familie." Mr. Clifton's chapel he maintains was "as antient report is the last part builded about the church, and it was said that Mr. Clifton was a great benefactor towards it, which is very

⁴⁰ *Duchy Records*, 9 Eliz.

⁴¹ *Mem. in Par. Reg.* by rev. James Webber.

⁴² Then copied by Mr. W. Langton. The original is now lost.

like to bee soe, and therefore the parish, to gratifie him noe doubt, was content to let him have that part to be his quyre, it being the most eminent place in the church,⁴³ and hee the most eminent man in the whole parish." The writer proceeds to say that both these chapels were only used in "the tymes of popery" for the celebration of mass by the priests of private gentlemen, who to "avoyd al thrusting of the common multitude" had several altars of stone built in various parts of the church; and that a "great flagge stone, which as is thought had been an altar stone," was then lying near to the east wall, and upon it "morthor [mortar] was made" when there was any required about the church. He further adds that the repairs of the roof, windows and leads were done at the parish expense (see Thirty-men's record), and that for burials in these chapels the usual fees were paid to the church; and he gives the following list of persons who were buried there, which is probably correct.

"IN THE CLIFTON QUYRE.

"1597, sir Geo. Cowbrone and Mr. Cuthbert Clifton; 1598, Henry Colbron of Frekleton; 1601, Mr. Skillicorne;⁴⁴ 1604, ould Dorothe Skillicorne, Mr. Skillicorne daughter; 1602, Mr. Skillicorne his wiff, Mr. Skillicorne his son and Henry Brown of Scales; 1604, Laurence Cowbrone eldest son of above; 1616, Henry Porter of Treales; 1621, Mrs. Jane Anderton, died at Westby; 1625, Mr. John Sharples of Frekleton; 1630, uxor Arthur Sharples and Matthew Colbron of Frekleton."

"IN THE WESTBY QUYRE.

"1605, Mr. Westby and Mr. John Westby (Mr. Thos. eldest

⁴³ The writer also adds that "some young women having good portions of goods leaft them, dying unmarried, gave their portions toward the building of it."

⁴⁴ A note added: "When the old man died and was to be buried Sayth [Seth] Woods of Kirkham and another with him stood at Mr. Clifton's quyre dore to keep them from making a grave, and William Hul of Singleton did run at the door with [a piece of] wood and break it open — how it ended is forgotten, but he was buried there."

brother); 1622, sould Mr. Hesketh; 1623, Mr. Hesketh of Maines."

The suit instituted by the "thirty-men" is next adverted to (see Thirty-men's record), and also the evidence of churchwardens' accounts. The writer concludes his essay with a violent attack on some of the "thirty-men," who are, he asserts, "cowardly, slavish-minded persons," who "betrayed their trust and sould the parish inheritance for favour."

This manuscript must have been written about 1630-40, and whoever was its author, he was a strong puritan and evidently had a personal feeling against the Clifton and Westby families; and from these and other circumstances it is not improbable that the writer may have been major Edward Robinson (see p. 26), who about that time was living at Newton-with-Scales, and is believed to have written the *Discourse of the Warr in Lancashire* (vol. lxii., Chet. soc.).

The Westby or as it is called now the Mowbreck chapel still exists; and in an act of parliament (17 and 18 Vic.) for the partition of the Mowbreck estate, passed in 1845, certain parts of the property are declared to be "subject to the repairs of that part of the roof, walls and fabric of Kirkham church as now rebuilt, where formerly stood the ancient chapel called Mowbrick chapel; also to a payment of a mortuary fee of 10*l.*, payable to the vicar of Kirkham on the death of the lord of the manor of Mowbrick."

There is a tradition that the Saxons built the first church of Kirkham on Mill hill, and that it was afterwards rebuilt on the present site. Of the date of its erection we have no record; but we find that in 1512 the then existing church was partially rebuilt, a portion of the older structure being allowed to remain, main, and which was not finally destroyed until 1853.

As then rebuilt it consisted of a nave and side aisles, separated by stone pillars supporting pointed arches. The chancel was of the width of the nave and south aisle. The north wall was

very low, and part of it was pierced with deep and massive windows, which were considered to be of Norman structure. At the west end was a gallery of the width of the nave, and in another gallery at the east was the organ. A third but smaller gallery was in the north aisle, near to the vault of the ffrence family, to whom it belonged.⁴⁵ In the north-east corner of the north aisle stood the private chapel claimed by the lords of Mowbreck, *i.e.* the Westby family. The pulpit and reading desk were placed one above the other against the central pillar on the north side of the nave. At the east end of the north aisle was the large vestry in which the thirty-men used to hold their meetings. A single-gabled roof, pierced on either side with dormer windows, covered the whole, except the chancel which had a roof of two gables. At the south door was a deep massive porch. The tower was erected very early in the sixteenth century, as Cuthbert Clifton of Clifton esq.,⁴⁶ by his will dated 29th July 1512 bequeathed “vj^{li} xiijs iiijs towards buyldyng of the steeple” of Kirkham church, and also directed that his body should be interred in the tomb where his great grandfather was buried. The local tradition is that this tower was erected by a Clifton to atone for some indignity offered to one of the abbots of Vale royal; it is however quite evident that such could not have been the case. It stood about sixty feet high, was embattled, and had a short pinnacle at each corner; there were projecting walls on the west side from the base to within a few feet of the top, and on one of the buttresses was a stone on which was engraved the “three mullets” of the Cliftons.⁴⁷ In the angle between the projecting west wall of the north aisle and the north side of the tower stood the old bone house.

⁴⁵ This gallery occupied the space between two pillars of one of the arches dividing the nave from the aisle.

⁴⁶ Baines erroneously attributes the building of the church to a Cuthbert Clifton who died (as he says) in 1586.

⁴⁷ This we take to be the stone now built in the wall inside the tower, and which bears a fragment of a name which was probably “Cuthbert Clifton.”

In 1820 the nave was taken down and rebuilt on the old foundation ; this was done by a rate on all the townships. The church was again opened for service in the year following. The tower and spire as they now stand were built in 1844, and the chancel in 1853 ; and thus all trace of the old building was at last swept away.

The present church is a handsome edifice built of Longridge stone, surmounted by a lofty spire one hundred and fifty feet high, the foundation stone of which was laid 21st November 1843 by Thomas Clifton of Lytham hall esq. The tower contains a peal of eight bells.⁴⁸ The church and churchyard contain numerous monuments and inscriptions, which will form the subject of a special chapter. The churchyard was formerly entered by a "lych gate." Prayers are said daily in the church in conformity with the will of Dr. W. Grimbaldson, who left the sum of 500*l.* for the purchase of lands &c., the yearly income from which was directed to be paid half-yearly to such person or persons as should read prayers twice every day in the week (except Sunday) in the parish church of Kirkham, but if such prayers be neglected then the income to be yearly distributed amongst poor housekeepers of Treales. (See *post.*)

⁴⁸ The old bells (of which frequent mention will be found in the church records) were sold.

CHAPTER III.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY CONTINUED.

SINGLETON CHURCH.

THERE was a chapel in Singleton in the middle of the fourteenth century, as Henry duke of Lancaster by deed dated at Preston 20th August anno 8¹ [1358-59] granted to John de Estwitton, hermit, the custody of the chapel of St. Mary of Singleton.² On the 26th August 1440 a licence was granted "celebrandi incolis villæ de Syngleton in capellâ ibidem per unum annum;" and on the 17th September 1452 a licence was granted by the archdeacon of Richmond for an oratory "incolis villæ de Syngleton" for three years "in capellâ de Syngleton;" and on the 28th of the same month a forty days' indulgence was granted for the same. On the 11th March 1455-56 archdeacon Laurence Bothe renewed a licence (probably the one just named) to John Skillicorne of Kirkham esq. during pleasure.³

Nearly a century passes away before we again discover any mention of this small chapel which, from its isolated position, might easily escape the notice of the historian.

At the time of the dissolution of the chantries the chapel and its belongings became the property of the king; and on the 21st February 1547 Edward VI. granted it for a term of twenty-one years to sir Richard Houghton knt., whose son Thomas Hough-

¹ *i.e.* the eighth of the duchy. *Lanc. Chant.*, vol. ii, p. 216.

² *Duchy of Lanc. Chancery Roll*, chap. xxv, A. 3^a, No. 34. Record office.

³ *Reg. Arch. Rich.* (see *Lanc. Chant.*, vol. ii, p. 216.)

ton of Lea in the county of Lancaster esq., in 3 Elizabeth (1560-61), pleaded in the duchy court that he was by inheritance seized in his demesne as of fee, "with the soke of all the lands of the late kynge in Syngleton⁴ * * * appurtenances and belongings, and also an house called the chappell house of three acres of arable land and to the same house belonging in Singleton aforesaid in the tenure of Wm. Yede, and of a chappell called Singleton chappell in Singleton aforesaid with the chappell yarde thereunto belonging, also one house or cottage called the Corner-rawe,⁵ parcell of the duchy of Lanc.; also of a windmill; and that the tenants thereof, Robert Carter and James Hall, had never paid any rent, and refused to do so."⁶ By the original agreement sir Richard Houghton was to pay xlix^s yearly to a priest to celebrate in the chapel.⁷

According to the report of the royal commissioners (see *Lancashire Chantries*, vol. lix, Chet. soc.) instituted by queen Mary, 22nd February 1554, there was then at Singleton chapel "one litle bell weying half a hundred weight" of the value of vij^s vjd, and "ornaments" which were worth ij^s iiij^d; and William Butler and Thomas Bayne "chyrchereves of y^e chappell" having been "sworne and examyned" deposed that the little bell yet remained, although it had been "seased to thuse of" the late king Edward VI., by the authority of a former commission.

In 1578, at the archiepiscopal visitation of the diocese of Chester, the curate of Singleton was presented, the charges against him being of a very serious nature, to wit: "There is not servyse done in due tyme. He kepeth no hous nor releveth the poore. He is not dyligent in visitinge the sycke. He doth not teach the catechisme. There is no sermons. He churcheth fornycatours without doinge any penance. He maketh a donge

⁴ The writing of the original manuscript is in many places obliterated.

⁵ There is a place still known by this name.

⁶ *Pleadings*, 3 Eliz. Record office.

⁷ *Lanc. Chant.*, p. 217.

hill in the chapell yeard, and he hath lately kepte a typlinge hous and a nowty woman in it.”⁸

With such a model curate as this, even though

“Wynd was his parisch and houses far asondur,”

we can scarcely wonder or regret that for some considerable time nothing more is recorded of the chapel of Singleton, and in all probability it was suffered gradually to fall into neglect and ruin.

The Oliverian commissioners, in 1650, reported that “Syngleton chappell [was] newly erected with neyther * * * nor maintenance, and the same being distant seaven miles from their parish church, and consisting of 140 fameleys. Att the least the inhabitants humbly desire it may be a parish church, and that they may have a minister and competent mayntenance allowed.”⁹

Mr. Thornber is of opinion (although he gives no authority) that this chapel was converted into a public house called “the chapel house;” but it is far more probable that this inn was the house known as “the chapel house” in 1547 (see p. 45), and that the building newly erected in 1650, having no endowment, subsequently fell into private hands, and was converted into a Roman catholic chapel.

Cuthbert Harrison was minister here in 1651, but remained for a few years only. (See *post*.)

In 1720, if there was then a chapel, it must have been in the hands of the Romanists, as bishop Gastrell makes no allusion to it.

A tradition is preserved that in 1745 the inhabitants of Singleton, whilst celebrating the 5th November, went round to the various houses asking for a contribution of peat (for the bon-fires it is presumed), and had the audacity to call on the priest, and that on his housekeeper declining to accede to their request they, with one Richard Leckington at their head, ejected the priest from

⁸ *Chester presentments* at York.

⁹ *MSS.*, Lamb. library.

his house and church, and that the lord of the manor seized the opportunity to get possession of the church and convert it into a protestant place of worship.¹⁰ Like most similar traditions, there is a grain of truth in this and a large proportion of fiction.

It appears from an indenture dated 29th August 1749 that "William Shaw esq., lord of the manor of Shingleton in y^e parish of Kirkham, had given a chapel belonging to him at Shingleton afores^d, and then used as a popish¹¹ chapel, to be used for y^e future as a chapel of ease to y^e mother church of Kirkham, for y^e benefit of y^e inhabitants of Singleton afs^d and of y^e oth^r townships adjacent, and that the s^d W^m Shawe did propose to give 200*l.* to be added to 200*l.* more out of the stock of the goven^{rs} of queen Anne's bounty for y^e endowm^t of y^e s^d chappell, in considera^õn whereof Sam^l lord bp. of Chester as ordinary the dean and chapter of Xt church as patrons, and Chas. Buck as incumbent, by virtue of the act of parliam^t made in y^e 1st year of king Geo. y^e 1st, grant and agree that y^e s^d William Shawe his heirs and assigns for ever shall have y^e nomination to and patronage of the said chappell as often as it shall become vacant." And by another deed dated 1756 between the governors of queen Anne's bounty on the first part, the bishop of Chester on the second part, the dean and chapter on the third part, Charles Buck vicar of Kirkham on the fourth part, William Shawe on the fifth part, and John Threlfall "clerk curate of the curacy or chapel of saint Anne's within the manor of Singleton" on the sixth part, "it is agreed by all parties that the said chappell shall be always deemed a place of publick worship according to the liturgy of y^e church of England, and the chappell yard shall be allways appropriated to the use of burrying of the dead and y^e support of y^e minister and that the curacy or chappell of s^d Anne's in Singleton shall for ever be deemed a perpetual

¹⁰ Thorner's *History of Blackpool*, p. 307; and repeated in Baines's *Lanc.*, new edition.

¹¹ A Roman catholic chapel was erected here about 1774; rebuilt in 1850, but abandoned when the new chapel at Poulton was opened. Baines's *Lanc.*, vol. ii, p. 497.

curacy, separate and distinct from and independent of the vicarage or mother church of Kirkham, save and except to the vicar of Kirkham y^e attendance of the curate of y^e s^d chapelry on Christmas day, Easter day, Whitsunday and Good Friday, and give other Sundays in the year in w^{ch} sacram^{ts} are usually administered to assist in the p^rformance of this duty, and save also to the vicar all tythes, Easter dues, funeral sermons and all other parochial rights or duties whatever belonging to the vicarage."¹²

This church was covered with an old thatched roof, the eaves of which were within a few feet from the ground, and the priest's house was attached to it, and had a communication with it through a door in the vestry.

In 1809 it was pulled down, and a new church built by Joseph Hornby esq., the then lord of the manor; and in 1859 this was replaced by the present handsome structure, the expense of which was mainly borne by T. Miller esq.¹³

There are several mural monuments in the church, containing the following inscriptions :

In memory of
Agnes Harrison,
who departed this life
25 January 1869, aged 90 years.

In memory of
Richard Harrison esq. of Bankfield,
who died December 21st 1836,
aged 63 years.

This tablet is erected by his afflicted widow
As an endearing testimony of her affection.¹⁴

¹² *Records of Dean and Chapter*, Ch. Ch. Oxford.

¹³ The font, which is a very handsome one, was presented by "Mary Cairns 1860." The west window was given by Mrs. Henry Miller of Preston, in memory of her husband.

¹⁴ These two on the south side of the chancel.

Sacred
to the memory of
Agnes Elizabeth,
the beloved wife of
Edwards Atkinson
of Fleetwood,
and last surviving child of
the late
Richard and Hannah Harrison
of Bankfield.
Respected, beloved and lamented,
she departed this life suddenly
on 26th March 1850,
aged 30 years.
“Boast not thyself of to morrow
for thou knowest not what a day
may bring forth.”
Her remains are deposited in a vault
in this church yard.

Also
in memory of
Edwards Atkinson esq.,
a magistrate of this county,
husband of the above named
Agnes Elizabeth Atkinson,
who died at Lockington
in the East Riding
of Yorkshire
on the 25th of August 1861,
aged 64 years,
and is interrèd in the family vault
in this church yard.¹⁵

¹⁵ On the north wall.

The following inscription is on a tombstone in the churchyard :

Intered Feb. 9, 1759,
Rich: Harrison of Bankfield,
aged 86.

THE CURATES OF SINGLETON.

RICHARD GODSON was the incumbent in 37 Henry VIII. (1545-46), and had for his salary xlix.¹⁶

DOM THOMAS FIELDHOUSE was curate in 1562, and answered to the visitation "call" of bishop Downham.¹⁷ We can only hope that he was not the curate against whom so many charges were preferred in 1578. (See p. 45.)

CUTHBERT HARRISON was the son of Richard Harrison of Newton near Preston, was born in 1621, and became a student at Cambridge, where he took a B.A. degree. On 27th November 1651 he was ordained by the seventh classis to officiate at Singleton, the testimonials of his ordination being as follows : "Whereas Cuthbert Harrison B.A., aged 24 years,¹⁸ hath addressed himself to us, authorised by ordinance of parliament of 28 Aug. 1646 for ordination of ministers, desiring to be ordained a presbyter, being chosen by the inhabitants within the chapelry of Singleton to officiate there ; and having been examined by us the ministers of the seventh classis, and found sufficiently qualified for the ministerial functions, according to the rules preserved in the said ordinance, and thereupon approved — we have this day solemnly set him apart to the office of presbyter and work of the ministry of the gospel, by laying on of hands by us present, with fasting and prayer, by virtue whereof we declare him to be a lawful

¹⁶ *Lanc. Chant.*, p. 217.

¹⁷ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 280.

¹⁸ There is some mistake here. If he was born in 1621 (his own son placed that on record), then he would in 1651 be thirty years of age.

and sufficiently authorised minister of Jesus Christ. In testimony whereof we have hereunto put our hands the 27 Nov. 1651.

Signed RICHARD BRIGGS.

JOH. LAPPYE.

RICHARD REEDMAN."

From Singleton he removed to Shankel near Lurgan in the county of Armagh, and of that place, by an order of the commissioners for the government of affairs in Ireland (dated at Dublin 14th July 1660), he was allowed the tythes, subject to certain conditions. From Shankel he was ejected, as appears from the following passage from a letter written by his son Richard:¹⁹ "Soon after Dr. Calamy's two vols. of *The Abridgement of Mr. Baxter's Life and Times* came out I heard thereof, and I bought them up, and I found our pious father only named as ejected at Singleton. And the Dr. giving the promise of an appendix I was solicited and prevailed with by my neighbouring dissenting ministry to rectify the mistake, and to draw up a short character of him according to what vouchers I had: but I did not expect it to be printed because his being *ejected in Ireland* did not agree with the Dr's title page."

The above is somewhat ambiguous, and it is not clear whether the writer means that his father was twice ejected, or that Calamy was wrong in naming Singleton as the place from which he was ejected. We think the latter the more probable, as it is quite certain that he was in Ireland in 1662, and could not therefore have been expelled from Singleton by the law which drove so many of his brother ministers from their churches.

On his return from Ireland a licence was obtained from the king, dated 16th July 1672, for a meeting-house²⁰ at Elswick Lees in St. Michael's parish, to be used for the public worship "of such as do not conform to the church of England who are of the persuasion commonly called Congregational; and here Cuthbert Harrison officiated for a short time only, as on parliament

¹⁹ Addressed to his brother Paul.

²⁰ This chapel was in existence in 1650.

assembling it was declared illegal, and he then," his son writes, "preached in his own house again as he had formerly done before he obtained the license, and also at several houses in and near Elswick, very privately in the night, to such as would adventure to hear him. He often went to Ireland to visit his beloved people there. He practysed physic with good success, whereby he supported his family and gained the favor of the neighbouring gentry. He baptized his own children, with many others."

The same letter contains the following account of the feud with vicar Clegg.

"Mr. Richard Clegg vicar of Kirkham fell violently upon him first in the ecclesiastical court for preaching and marrying one James Benson of Warles and baptizing a child of his, and got both him and Benson excommunicated. Our father's absolution from the censure at that time I have, dated 'Sexto die mensis Martis anno domini 1677. Signed Guliel. Wilson Reg'r. Dep. L. Fogg. Sur'tr.'

"He sometimes repaired to the parish church of Kirkham, particularly on the Lord's day, while he was under the aforesaid censure, and took his place amongst the gentlemen in the chancel. [On one occasion] Mr. Clegg the vicar, who writ his prayers before sermon and all his sermons also in characters [shorthand?], was got into the pulpit, and looking aside and seeing him come into his place lost the end, and he could not find it again, and he was silent for some time.

"Then he ordered the churchwardens to put him out, who went to our father and told him what Mr. Clegg had ordered, and desired he would go out.

"He refused, and said except Mr. Clegg himself would put him out he would not go. Mr. Clegg then required Mr. Christopher Parker (who was a justice of the peace and then in the church and sat within six feet of our father) to put him out, but Mr. Parker refused and said he would not meddle. Then Mr. Clegg went to our father and took him by the sleeve and desired

him to go out. He went along with Mr. Clegg and opened the chancel door; and was no sooner out [than he] with a strong voice said 'It is time to go when the devil drives.' Thou can scarcely imagine a greater disorder than was reported to be at that time."

From the same letter it appears that shortly after this, vicar Clegg sued Cuthbert Harrison for twenty shillings per month for six months absenting himself from church. The case was tried at Lancaster assizes. The defence was that the defendant was at church once in each of two of the months, for part of the period he was under the church censure, and that when he did go to church he was put out by the plaintiff. The judge, who was "heartly,"²¹ having summed up the evidence, said to the jury: "There is *fiddle to be hanged and a fiddle not to be hanged*."²² The defendant was under church censure, which might prevent his going to church; but he goes to church and is put out, and then is sued upon the statute for not going to church. Gentlemen, pray consider it."

The jury did consider it, and Mr. Clegg lost his case and had to pay all the cost.

Cuthbert Harrison married Ellen the daughter of John Swarbreck of Roseacre, and had issue: William, who died s.p.; Richard of Bankfield (see chapter X.); Paul, died in London, s.p.; and a daughter Claudia. He died "serene and comfortably" in October 1681. There was "great entreaty made to Mr. Clegg to suffer his body to be buried in the church, who was prevailed with, and he was interred a little within the great door, which has since been the burial place of our family."²³

²¹ Probably he was a good tempered and joke-loving judge.

²² The old saying here alluded to is: "Fiddle and be hanged, or not fiddle and be hanged."

²³ This letter of Richard Harrison was published some time ago in the *Manchester Guardian*, with notes by the late Mr. J. Harland. Richard Harrison says distinctly that the epithet subjoined was "fixed upon his [Cuthbert Harrison's] grave by Mr. Clegg," and Mr. Harland adds that it was supposed to have been written in chalk, and that it was effaced and another written in its place by Mr. Lowd of Kirkham.

Calamy said of him that "he was a man of good sense, and his ministrations discovered both learning and piety."

JOHN THRELFALL, B.A., was appointed curate of Singleton in August 1749, and had then for five years been head master of the Kirkham free grammar school. He died in November 1736. (See notice of head masters.)

There is no record of any regularly appointed curate²⁴ after this until 1809, when the curacy was held by

THOMAS BANKS, who for some years combined the duties of curate and schoolmaster. He was a native of Blackpool, and was succeeded by

WILLIAM BIRLEY, M.A. of Trinity college, Oxford, who became curate in charge here during the life of the rev. Thomas Banks. He resigned in 1843, and afterwards was incumbent of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, one of her majesty's inspectors of schools, and finally rector of St. Stephen's, Salford; where he died in 1865.²⁵

THE REV. LEONARD CHARLES WOOD, B.A. of Jesus college, Cambridge, was appointed in 1843, and is the present vicar.²⁶

LUND CHAPEL.

Of the early history of this chapel there is little to add to the note by canon Raines in *Notitia Cestriensis*.²⁷

In 8 Henry VIII. (1516-17), upon the settling of the estates of Mr. Clifton, the chantry of the chapel of Lund, together with the advowson, was included in the settlement.

²⁴ The service being performed by one of the curates of Kirkham.

²⁵ He married Maria the daughter of Thomas Barrow of Pendleton esq.

²⁶ Singleton, like the other curacies of the parish, became a vicarage in 1869.

²⁷ Vol. xxii, p. 425, Chet. soc.

In the following year a chief-rent was payable out of the chantry land.

In 24 Henry VIII. (1532-33) a recovery of the advowson of the Lund chantry was suffered; and in 1 Edward VI. it passed into the hands of the king. It is not however mentioned amongst the Lancashire chantries at the time of their suppression.

On the 19th February 1606 it was granted, in consideration of 20*l.* paid by sir Cuthbert Halsall of Halsall to Thomas Clifton²⁸ with certain lands and tenements, by letters patent to Messrs. Burne and Knight, in fee, who conveyed it to sir Cuthbert Halsall. After this date it appears for some time at least to have been considered as belonging to the Cliftons.²⁹

By deed dated 24th January 1648 50*s.* per annum was secured to the minister of Lund chapel (see Robinson's charity); and in 1650 the inhabitants of Clifton, Salwick and Newton with Scales, consisting of "200 families, together with the upper end of Treales from Thomas Porter's house," desire to be made a separate parish, with competent maintenance for the minister, as there was only then 40*l.* per annum allowed by order of the committee of plundered ministers.³⁰

On the 14th September 1687 the vicar of Kirkham (R. Clegg) laid claim to the patronage of Lund chapel, then held by sir Thomas Clifton and acknowledged by all to stand on his ground, "but could make no shadow of title to it, and so was dismissed" by the bishop.³¹ And in the same year, whilst sir Thomas Clifton bart. was under conviction on account of the Oates' plot, it is said that certain persons seized the opportunity to get possession of the key of the chapel, and a preacher being appointed he was maintained by voluntary contributions.

On the 9th May 1682 John Dickson left by will 60*l.* to be

²⁸ Thomas Clifton married Anne, daughter and coheiress of sir Cuthbert Halsall, representative of Elizabeth, sole heiress of Cuthbert Clifton of Clifton esq.

²⁹ *Clifton Evidences*, canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*

³⁰ *Parl. Survey*, Lamb. library.

³¹ *Bishop Cartwright's Diary*, p. 78, Camden soc.

invested ; half of the rents to go to the minister of Lund chapel. (See Dickson's charity.)

In 1688 the chapel was repaired at the expense of the parish, as appears from the following note of the thirty-men : " At a visitation this account was given to the bishop, viz. That Matt^w Hall³² ch^hwarden 1688 set up a scandalous trough for a font at Lund chapel and 4 sackfulls of moss he then carried from the church to repair the s^d chapel, and so it first began to be repaired at the parish charge."³³

In 1690 also appears as an item of expenditure 1*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* " for repairs of Lund chapel."

In 1683 Mr. Taylor, the head master of the free grammar school (see chapter VIII.), refused " to qualify himself or to hire or procure one qualified to preach " two sermons each year at Lund chapel, in accordance with a decree of the Drapers' company. (See *post*.)

There is no record of any regularly appointed curate here until the year 1732. In the interim the services were performed by the master of the free grammar school, who preached and read prayers there every Sunday, except upon sacrament days.³⁴

The old chapel of Lund, having become almost a ruin, was pulled down in 1824 and the present church erected on its site, the chancel being added in 1852.³⁵

Perhaps the most noteworthy thing in the church is the old font, the " scandalous trough " already alluded to. The trough or basin is about eighteen inches long and about a foot wide, and stands on a pedestal of stone ; on the front and two sides of which are figures raised in relief. On the front can be traced the bodies of three men or women, but the heads are gone. On one side are three draped figures with hands raised, but the other side is almost entirely effaced ; whilst the back is quite plain, and

³² Probably a churchwarden of Kirkham.

³³ This is entered under June 1701.

³⁴ Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. xxii, p. 424, Chet. soc.

³⁵ Since then it has been re-roofed, and it is intended to add a tower sixty feet high.

appears to have been originally intended to be placed against a wall. The pedestal has, by competent judges, been pronounced of Roman origin.

The east window was presented to the church by John Addison esq. of Preston, and the south window by the rev. Richard Moore, the present vicar.

A marble tablet on the north wall records :

This tablet,
a token of respect and gratitude,
was placed by the rev. R^d Moore
to commemorate the worth of his friend
Mr. John Hornby
of Newton,
who died on the 20th day of December 1844,
aged 87 years.
He liberally contributed to the erection
and endowment of this church,
and was 43 years
a most active and zealous trustee
of the Newton charity school.

Lund church was licensed for marriages in 1840 and baptisms in 1841 ; and the churchyard for burials in 1859. In 1840 Lund and Newton with Scales were constituted a parish. The living is now a vicarage in the gift of the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford, and is endowed with 382*l.* per annum. The parsonage, which forms part of the endowment, was built in 1812, but has since then been considerably enlarged. The church is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

THE CURATES OF LUND.

JOSEPH HARRISON, the son of Richard Harrison of Newton and brother to Cuthbert Harrison (see p. 50), was the minister here in January 1648.³⁶ In 1650 the parliamentary commissioners

³⁶ *Trust Deed*, Robinson and other charities. (See chapter IX.)

reported of him that he was "a godly, diligent and painefull minister;" and by Calamy he was said to be "a good scholar and a methodical preacher, fixed in a dark corner where he was wonderfully followed and very useful." He was ejected in 1662, and died in 1664.³⁷

THOMAS COCKIN, in a deed dated 1st November 1732, is called "late curate of Lund chapel."³⁸ He appears however to have again held the appointment, as on the 14th June 1733, on signing the testimonials of "Mr. Richard Robinson" on his election as usher to the Kirkham free grammar school, he adds to his signature: "Curate of Lund."

On the 20th April 1743, if the records of the thirty-men are correct, there were two curates of Lund; for on that date "55 $\frac{1}{2}$." was put into the hands of the rev. Mr. Cockin curate of Lund, for which he and his nephew Mr. Richard Cockin, also curate of Lund, gave their joint bond with interest, which was to be for the use of the second master of the school." One of these Richard Cockins (if there were two) was second master of the free grammar school until about 1787.³⁹

BENJAMIN WRIGHT, on his appointment to Whitechapel in the chapelry of Goosnargh on the 31st July 1769, was described as then curate of Lund.⁴⁰ (See *History of Goosnargh*.)

JOSHUA SOUTHWARD on the 8th September 1790 was nominated as curate of Goosnargh, being at the time curate of Lund, and having previously held curacies at Preston and Kirkham. (See *History of Goosnargh*.)

CHARLES BUCK, M.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge, was the only son of the rev. Charles Buck, M.A., vicar of Kirkham.

³⁷ *Calamy*, vol. ii, p. 97.

³⁸ *Piccope MSS.*, Chet. library.

³⁹ *School Minute Book*. It is probable that this is an error of transcription.

⁴⁰ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

(See chapter IV.) In 1784 he was vicar of St. Michael-le-Wyre, and resigned in 1789 (previously having been appointed curate of Warton). On the 18th June 1790 he became curate of Goosnargh and resigned the August following, and was then nominated to Lund, where he did not remain very long, as in 1789 he became vicar of Heysham. He died on the 4th May 1808. He married Alice Ormond, and left issue : (1) William, who married Maria Quartley, and had issue a son Charles and a daughter Maria (died 4th September 1866) ; (2) Henry Rishton, lieutenant in the 33rd regiment, killed at Waterloo (see chapter VII.) ; (3) James, lieutenant in the 21st light dragoons (died 1816) ; (4) Charles Buck of Preston, solicitor, died October 1844, s.p. ; (5) Elizabeth, who married Robert William Hopkins of Preston, clerk to the crown, and died in 1828, leaving a daughter Ellen, who married Mr. Edward Haydock ; (6) Alice, died in 1864 ; (7) Ellen, died *circa* 1814.

THOMAS STEPHENSON was curate of Whitechapel from 1796 to 1808, when he came to Kirkham. His name first appears as curate of Lund in November 1818,⁴¹ and he died there in 1820. He was succeeded by the present vicar,

THE REV. RICHARD MOORE, M.A. of Brasenose college, Oxford.

HAMBLETON CHURCH.

Bishop Gastrell, quoting from the Episcopal register books, stated that this chapel was consecrated in 1567, and was called "Hambleton a'ts Embleton or our Lady's chappell," and that it was ordered that "the faculty or licence" to administer the sacraments and to perform the burial service should be read in the chapel every three years. The church is still dedicated to the B. V. Mary. Speed's map of Lancashire, published in 1577,

⁴¹ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

shows a chapel then existing at Hambleton, and it is also marked on Saxton's map of 1610 and on Blome's map of 1617; beyond this we have discovered no notice of it until 1650, when the parliamentary commissioners report that "Hambleton chappell, distant 10 miles from Kirkham, the parish church, and divided from it by the river Wyre, there being no allowance to the minister, butt only 5*l.* per annum paydd by Richard Sherborne esq., lord of the manor, and 40*l.* per annum by the order from the committee for plundered ministers. The inhabitants desire it may be made a parish, and the township of Rawcliffe lying within a myle of it and 4 myles from their parish church may be annexed to it."⁴²

In 1655 the thirty-men of Kirkham record that the parish that year paid for "bread and wine for Hambleton chapel;" and it is said that in 1662, Mr. Bullock, the then curate, was ejected.⁴³ In 1705 the curate certified that 5*l.* per annum, derived from the profits of a windmill, was given by sir Nicholas Sherbourn, and that there was preaching there one afternoon in three Sundays.⁴⁴ The thirty-men of Kirkham in 1711 "agreed that Hambleton be allowed wine out of the parish stock for three days a year."

The church was rebuilt in 1749, and as it now stands is a plain whitewashed building, with a small belfry on its roof. Internally it is equally simple in appearance: it has a gallery in the west end, is pewed, and has no stained windows. There are two marble tablets which contain the following inscriptions:

Beneath this marble are deposited
the remains of Mary Ramsden,
daughter and heiress of rev.
Chris^r Westby Alderson,
and wife of Rowland Ramsden,
of Halifax in the county of

⁴² *MS.*, Lamb. library.

⁴³ The authority for this is Baines; Calamy does not mention it.

⁴⁴ *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. xxii, p. 423, Chet. soc.

York. Gent^a. She was
born Aug. 17th 1768, and died
Nov. 6 1794, leaving her
husband to regret the short
duration of his happiness, and
her only daughter, an infant,
the want of a mother's care.

Sacred
to the memory of
the rev. Thomas Butcher, B.A.,
for 39 years the respected
incumbent of this chapel.
This marble is erected
to his memory
by voluntary contributions
of his parishioners.⁴⁵

On a tombstone in the churchyard is the following :

Here lies the remains
of
Matthew Lewtas
born at Hambleton in the year 1736,
and departed this life 12 Sep.
1797, at Liverpool,
aged 66 years, 11 months,
and 22 days.

Here lies the remains
of
Mary Lewtas, widow of
the late Matthew Lewtas,
who departed this life
June 6th 1799, at Liverpool,
aged 65 years.

⁴⁵ A tombstone in the churchyard marks the burial place of Herbert William Butcher, who died on the 22nd January 1865, aged two years, and who was doubtless one of this family.

The old sundial, which appears to be the last relic of the seventeenth century here left, has inscribed upon it,

T × T
1670.

THE CURATES OF HAMBLETON.

— BULLOCK. Said to have been ejected, 1662. (See p. 60.)

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, B.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge, the son of Robert Whitehead of Kirkham and Anne his wife.⁴⁶ He married, on the 30th July 1725, Elizabeth Loxham of Kirkham. He was the curate of Hambleton, and on the 19th May 1735 he was appointed to the curacy of Goosnargh. (See *History of Goosnargh*.) He died about the year 1740.

JOHN FIELD⁴⁷ was curate in 1749, as appears from an inscription over a door on the south side of the church: "This chappel was rebuilt A.D. 1749. Joh. Field, minister. Geo. Bickerstaffe, undertaker."

— PARKINSON'S name appears as the "minister of Hambleton" in a copy of a return of the Kirkham charities made to parliament on the 30th September 1786.⁴⁸

THOMAS BUTCHER, B.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge (1780), came to Hambleton in 1796, and held the living for thirty-nine years.⁴⁹ (See p. 61.)

THE REV. WILLIAM HOUGH, the present vicar, was inducted on the 1st May 1836.

⁴⁶ Baptised at Kirkham on the 4th December 1690.

⁴⁷ Possibly the John Field who took a B.A. degree at Wadham college, Oxford, December 1733.

⁴⁸ MSS. in the possession of William Langton esq.

⁴⁹ After Mr. Butcher's death the living was held for a very short time by a Mr. Howard, who afterwards went to Australia and died there.

RIBBY WITH WREA CHURCH.

In 1721 the trustees of Nicholas Sharples's charity (see chapter IX.) bought from Jane Whiteside, widow, a plot of ground in Wrea Green and erected thereon a small chapel, the funds for the building of which they raised amongst themselves.⁵⁰

In 1722 it was licensed for service, and on the 20th June 1755 it was consecrated by the bishop of Chester; the consecration deed setting forth that 400*l.* was secured as endowment, of which 100*l.* was from Thistleton's charity (see chapter IX.), 100*l.* from Sharples's charity, and 200*l.* from queen Anne's bounty. This money was invested in land in Wharton in 1762. In 1761 Thomas Benson bequeathed 100*l.*, and by queen Anne's bounty and other sources this was made up into 600*l.*, with which land was purchased at Thistleton.⁵¹

In 1846 an order in council added to the township of Ribby with Wrea the township of Westby (except the two Plumptions), and formed them into the parish of Ribby with Wrea, thus making it a perpetual curacy, and in 1869 it became a titular vicarage.

The church first erected was pulled down, and on the 13th May 1848 the rev. G. L. Parsons, vicar of Kirkham, laid the foundation stone of the present edifice, which was opened on the 23rd September 1849, but not consecrated until 4th May 1855. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

THE CURATES OF RIBBY WITH WREA.

ROBERT WILLACY, on the 14th June 1733, signs the testimonial of Richard Robinson, a candidate for appointment as usher to the Kirkham free school, and describes himself as "curate of Ribby with Wray."⁵² His wife Ellen was buried at Kirkham on the 1st August 1735.

⁵⁰ *MS. Church Records.*

⁵¹ Afterwards exchanged for the land on which the vicarage now stands.

⁵² *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

SAMUEL SMITH was curate in 1756.⁵³

JOHN ANYON appears in 1762, then being 78 years old. He died in 1770, aged 86.⁵⁴

— WATTS, formerly a Roman Catholic priest of Singleton. He died curate of Ribby with Wrea in 1773.⁵⁵

JOHN THOMPSON was the son of John and Elizabeth Thompson of Preston, and was baptised there on the 8th September 1764. He was nominated to Ribby with Wrea on the 16th June 1791, at a salary of 40*l.* per annum, which the vicar of Kirkham (the rev. H. Shuttleworth) suggests he may "increase by becoming a surrogate, as Mr. Southward had been, and by other little advantages."⁵⁶

JAMES FOX, a native of Milnethorp in the county of Westmorland, was born about the year 1760. When quite a young man he was appointed master of Wrea Green free school, and afterwards became assistant master of Kirkham free grammar school. Having been ordained, he held the two curacies of Warton⁵⁷ and Ribby with Wrea. He resigned the curacy of the former in favour of his son about 1843, but held the latter until within a short time of his death, which occurred in 1846 (aged 86).

GEORGE THISTLETHWAITE, M.A. of Brasenose college, Oxford, was the son of the late rev. T. Thistlethwaite, incumbent of St. George's church, Bolton-le-Moors. In 1837 Mr. Thistlethwaite was appointed head master of the Free grammar school *pro tem.*

⁵³ *Vestry Book.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Thornber's *History of Blackpool*, p. 307.

⁵⁶ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester. It would appear from this that Mr. Southward, if not curate of Ribby with Wrea, had at least (as curate of Kirkham) performed the duties.

⁵⁷ Curate of Warton in June 1794. (*Bish. Reg.*, Chester.)

He succeeded to the curacy of Ribby with Wrea in 1845, and died in the year following.

STEPHEN EXUPERIUS WENTWORTH, M.A. of Balliol college, Oxford, was head master of the Free grammar school, Kirkham, from 1845 to 1860. He was nominated to Ribby with Wrea in 1846. He married Mary the daughter of Richard Addison of Liverpool esq. and widow of Frederick Birley of Wrea Green esq. He died on the 29th April 1866, leaving issue one son. He is said to have been a man of singular ability and a great wit.

A stone monument in the churchyard records :

Stephen Exuperius Wentworth

B.D., died April xxix.

MDCCCLXVI., aged 53 years.

Seymour Exuperius Wentworth,

died June xix. MDCCCLVIII.,

aged vii. months.

THE REV. RALPH SADLEIR STONEY, M.A. of Trinity college, Dublin, the present vicar, was appointed on the 20th May 1866.

WARTON CHURCH.

This church, dedicated to St. Paul, was built in 1722 and consecrated in 1725. Like all the other district churches it was originally a chapel of ease to Kirkham, but it is now a parish church and its minister a vicar. The interior of the church is fitted up with old oak pews, upon the doors of which are the following initials in bold raised characters :

A . B ⁵⁸	I . N ⁵⁹	T . S	W . C	T . A
W . N	R . N	C . C	R . D.	I . D
T . R	I . L	E . S	W . M	W . G
H . G	R . A	I . I	W . B	

⁵⁸ The Brade family of Freckleton still occupy this pew.

⁵⁹ John Nickson.

There is also a large christening pew in which is a carved oak chair bearing the inscription :

W . S
16xx
M S.

THE CURATES OF WARTON.

WILFRED BURTON appears as "curate of Wharton" on the 17th November 1773,⁶⁰ when he signs a testimonial as to the character of John Jones, who is seeking the appointment of usher in the Kirkham school.⁶¹

CHARLES BUCK, M.A., was curate here in September 1786 and remained until June 1790, when he removed to Goosnargh. (See p. 59.)

JAMES FOX (see chapter VIII.) was probably nominated on the resignation of Mr. Buck. He relinquished the living in 1843 in favour of his son.

JAMES FOX, who was an exhibitioner from the Kirkham free grammar school (see chapter VIII.), took a B.A. degree at St. John's college, Cambridge, in 1814. He married Miss Elizabeth Heys of the Willows, and died in November 1849, aged 59,⁶² having issue four daughters. He resigned the curacy of Warton in 1840, and was then appointed vicar of Arncliffe in Yorkshire.

GEORGE WYLIE, M.A., fellow of Queen's college, Oxford, was nominated in 1840, and left in 1844 on his appointment to the vicarage of Newnham with Mapledurwell chapel, Winchfield, Hants, and was succeeded by

THOMAS HENRY DUNDAS, B.A., the present vicar of Warton and Freckleton.⁶³

⁶⁰ Probably before this date the curates of Kirkham officiated here.

⁶¹ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

⁶² Buried at Kirkham on the 12th November.

⁶³ The curate in charge is the rev. Theodore John Avar, B.A.

FRECKLETON CHURCH,

Dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was erected in 1837, and is a chapel of ease to Warton. The only object of interest in the church is the old oak pulpit, which was presented to Freckleton by the vicar of Kirkham. It is elaborately carved and in a good state of preservation, although for years previous to its removal from Kirkham it had been covered and re-covered with coats of whitewash until every trace of its beauty was lost. It bears the following inscription :

ISAIAH. CRIE ALOVD SPARE NOT LIFT
VP THY VOYCE LIKE A TRVMPET.

The first resident curate was the rev. GEORGE HOWARD WATERFALL, M.A., now rector of Tallard Royal, Wilts.

The present curate is the rev. WALTER SCOTT, who was appointed in 1861.

WEETON CHURCH

Was built by subscription in 1843 and enlarged in 1852. It is dedicated to St. Michael. In 1861 the district was separated from the mother parish, and the living is now a vicarage.

The rev. WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE, as curate of Kirkham, was the first who had the charge of Weeton, and in 1861 he was appointed the incumbent. He was succeeded in 1862 by the rev. WILLIAM THOROLD, the present vicar.

TREALES CHURCH.

Christ church, Treales, was built in 1853 by the late lord Derby, and is a plain stone edifice consisting of nave and chancel. It was consecrated in February 1853, and the rev. J. HODGKIN, the present curate, was appointed in June of the same year. In 1858 it was created a distinct benefice, and endowed by the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford.

CHAPTER IV.

THE VICARS OF KIRKHAM.

2 Id. Maii 1239	- -	Dn's Will de Ebor. ¹
Between 1240-60	- -	Ricardus—persona de Kirkham.
Edw. I. - - - -	- -	Simon Alley.
February 1354	- -	William de Slayteburn.
1361 - - - -	- -	William Boulton.
28 August 1362	- -	Fr. Phil. de Grenhal.
.....	- -	Dn's Roger Dyring.
28 December 1418	- -	Dn's Will. Torfet.
9 September 1420	- -	Dn's John Cotun.
1450-52 - - - -	- -	John Hardie.
14 March 1452	- -	Dom. Edmund Layche.
4 August 1512	- -	Thomas Smith.
1558 - - - -	- -	Sir James Smith.
6 September 1586	- -	James Smith.
17 November 1591	- -	James Sharples, B.A.
20 October 1594	- -	Nicholas Helme, M.A.
17 August 1598	- -	Arthur Greenacres, M.A.
24 December 1627 ²	- -	John Gerrard, M.A.
9 March 1629	- -	Edward Fleetwood, M.A.
1650 - - - -	- -	John Fisher.

¹ Whitaker, quoting from Torre's *MS.* (see *History of Richmondshire*), places Simon Alley before Will. de Ebor, but, as he not only gives the dates as above, but adds that the latter was appointed by Vale royal (which monastery was not founded until 1277), it is clear that the order has been reversed.

² On the 1st October 1627 Thomas Willis, B.A. of Christ church, Oxford, was presented but not licensed. (*Bish. Reg.*, Chester.)

20 June 1666	- - -	Richard Clegg, M.A.
10 June 1720	- - -	William Dickson, B.A.
4 July 1744	- - -	Charles Buck, M.A.
9 August 1771	- -	Humphrey Shuttleworth, M.A.
18 January 1813	- -	James Webber, D.D.
1847	- - - -	George Lodowick Parsons, M.A.
1852	- - - -	William Law Hussey, M.A.
1862	- - - -	George Rich Brown, M.A.

DN'S WILL. DE EBOR, 1239.

The first recorded vicar. He is said to have been appointed by Richard duke of Cornwall,³ and he is described as "Can^eus de Ebor."

RICARDUS, PERSONA DE KIRKHAM, 1240-60.

This name occurs in a charter of Cockersands abbey without date, but, from other names contained in it, it may be safely said to have been executed between 1240 and 1260.⁴

SIMON ALLEY, *temps* Edward I.

Appointed by the abbot and convent of Vale royal, consequently he could not have been vicar until after 1277.⁵

WILLIAM DE SLAYTEBURN, 1354-6..

By deed bearing date "2 feb." 28 Edward III. (1354) William de Slayteburn vicar of Kirkham gave to Thomas the son of Edmund de Graystok and his heir one bovat of land in "ffrekilton." This grant, executed at Kirkham, is witnessed by "W^m de Clifton miles," "Rado de ffrekilton," "W^m de Bredekyrke" and "Rico. Banaster de Warton."⁶ This vicar was also dean of

³ Torre's *Archdeaconry of Richmondshire*. (See Whitaker's *Richmondshire*.)

⁴ *Coucher Book of Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 459.

⁵ Torre's *Archdeaconry of Richmondshire*. (See Whitaker's *Richmondshire*.)

⁶ *Dods. MSS.*, vol. cxlii, f. 50.

Amounderness, and in the 34th Edward III. (1360-61) was convicted of maladministration of his office; he however sued for and, at the request of Henry de Walton archdeacon of Richmond, obtained pardon.

The following is a copy of the original :

“Carta p Wiffo de Slateburn vicario ecclie
de Kirkeham.

“Dux omnib; Ballinis &c. salm. Sciatis qd de gra⁹ nra⁹ spali & ad requisicoem ditci clici nr⁹ Henr⁹ de Waltō archedi Richemundi pdonarium⁹ Wiffo de Slayteburn vicario ecclie de Kirkeham nup Ministro dēi clici nr⁹ in ducatū pdco sectam pacis nre⁹ que ad nos ptinet p omīodes tnsgressionib; entorsionib; & capcōib; causa administraōis officii decani de Amuundernesse in ducatū pdco illatis unde indiccatus seu rectatus existit ac etiam ut lagariam si qua in ipm hiis occōib; fu⁹it pmulgata & * * * pacem nram⁹ ei inde concedim⁹ Ita tamen qd stet recto in Cur⁹ nra⁹ si qui versus eum loqui volūint de pmissis In cuius &c. T⁹duce apud Preston quarto die decembr p tras ipms Ducis de puato sigillo.”⁷

WILLIAM BOULTON, 1361.

The only mention of this vicar which has been discovered is contained in the records of the thirty-men, where the date is erroneously given as 1357. His “portion” is there stated as “40^m 9. 22.”

FR. PHIL. DE GRENHAL, 1362.

He was instituted on the 28th August 1362 (on the death of his predecessor) by the abbot and convent of Vale royal,⁸ to which monastery he then attached.

⁷ *Duchy Records*, cl. xxv, A 3a, No. 12.

⁸ *Torre's Archdeaconry of Richmondshire*.

DN'S ROGER DYRYNG.

Nothing is known of this vicar except that he was at Kirkham sometime between 1362 and 1418.⁹

DN'S WILLIAM TORFET, 1418-20.

Instituted on the 28th December 1418, probably on the death of Roger Dyryng. He is described as presbyter, and his salary was 6*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* He died sometime before September 1420.¹⁰

DN'S JOHN COTUN, 1420-14....

Like his predecessor he is described as a presbyter, the stipend being now 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* He was appointed to the vicarage on the 6th September 1420,¹¹ and on the 8th December 1445 he is styled "John Cotham¹² vicario de Kirkham de Priore de Lathom,"¹³ and he was still the vicar in 29 Henry VI. (1450-51).¹⁴

JOHN HARDIE, 14....

Of this vicar nothing whatever is known, except that he was a "clerk" and was appointed between 1450-51 and 1452,¹⁵ but it may safely be presumed that he was the immediate successor of John Cotun.

DOM. EDMUND LAYCHE, 1452.

On the 14th March 1452 the abbot and convent of Vale royal presented Edmund Layche, clerk, to the vicarage, on the death of John Colon [or Cotun], and John Clarke "chaplain in the church" at Kirkham was commissioned to induct him.¹⁶ On the 29th April 1469 letters dimissory were granted by John Arundell

⁹ Torre's *Archdeaconry of Richmondshire*.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Baines wrongly prints the name as "Coton."

¹³ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 375.

¹⁴ *Clifton Deeds*, No. 101. (Piccope's *MS.*, vol. xii.)

¹⁵ Torre's *Archdeaconry of Richmondshire*.

¹⁶ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 379.

M.D., archdeacon of Richmond, to "John Williamson of Kirkham," who was subsequently styled "capellanus de Kirkham,"¹⁷ but there is no evidence that he was ever the vicar.

THOMAS SMITH, 1512-41.

The name of "Thomas Smith, vicar of Kirkham," occurs in a deed bearing date 4th August 4 Henry VIII. (1512),¹⁸ and again in a lease dated 15th September 1526, by which he "graunted, demised, sett and to farme lettyn" to sir Richard Hoghton knt. "the moyte or hallfendell and of all profetts &c. of a certain tacke or bargain belonging to the chappell of Gosenarghe, as well oblacons, tithes, corne presents, mortuaries &c." which he held by lease from John abbot of Vale royal.

By the terms of this lease sir Richard Hoghton was to pay to the vicar, in the parish church of Kirkham, 15*l.* per annum. In 1535, when this lease had expired, a dispute arose respecting these tithes &c., and amongst those who made depositions were sir William Strenger chaplain to the vicar, and Robert Barker "officer of the vicar." The latter said "at that time [1534] the vicar didde lease us for a tenement called Bradbyrke [? Bradkyrke]."¹⁹

Thomas Smith was buried at Kirkham on the 23rd October 1541.

JAMES SMITH, 15....-1585.

In 1559 Katherine Houghton, widow of Richard Houghton of Kirkham, gentleman, deceased, was plaintiff, and Arthur Houghton and James Smith, clerk, vicar of Kirkham, were defendants, in a case brought before the chancellor of the duchy. The matter in dispute was that as sir Richard Houghton

¹⁷ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 385.

¹⁸ *Clifton Deeds*, quoted in the rev. G. J. Piccope's *MSS.*

¹⁹ *Duchy Records*, vol. lxxii, No. 2, Record office. (See *History of Goosnargh*, pp. 211-214.)

had died seized of the rectory or parsonage of Kirkham, together with certain lands, tithes, oblations, obventions &c., and that by virtue of a lease (not yet expired) from the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford, his widow was entitled to one third part thereof, whereas divers writings &c. had "casually come into the hands of the defendants, who, by colour of such possession have entered upon the premises, and absolutely deny the plaintiff's right."

At the bishop's visitation at Wigan on the 10th July 1562 there appeared and answered to the call "dom. James Smith, vicar of Kirkham; dom. William Nickson; dom. Laurentius Kempe,²⁰ minister of Gosner and curate of Kirkham."

This vicar is several times mentioned in the records of the thirty-men as "sir James Smyth." (See chapter V.)

He was buried at Kirkham on the 11th July 1585.

JAMES SMITH, 1586-91.

Instituted on the 6th September 1586, on the presentation of James Smith yeoman; the living being vacant by the death of the former vicar. James Smith at the same time gave bond to the bishop for the vicar.²¹ In the records of the thirty sworn men for 1586 is a signature of this vicar. He signs, in a hand so cramped that it is scarcely to be deciphered: "James Smith, vicar, the 2nd of that name." In the same year he instituted a suit against James Ryley, Robert Whitehead and Robert Dickeson, in which he pleaded that he "was lawfully seized in his demesne as of fee in the right of his vicarage, of the tithes of hay, hemp and flaxe whatsoever yearly coming and growing within the town or township or hamlet of Clyfton w'thin the p'ish of Kyrkham," and that he had agreed with the defendants "to take the sum of thirty-eight pounds for the same (that is to say, for every oxgang of land 40/s), in the name of a fine or gressome, and the yearly rent of 38/s, *i.e.* for every oxgang

²⁰ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 278.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. xxii, p. 42.

2/s," but that the defendants had paid "33^s/4^d in earnest at the time of making the bargain, but had refused to complete."²²

In 30 Elizabeth (1587-88) James Smith, son of the vicar, claimed a parcel of land in Kirkham called Perkholme (of about three acres), which was let to him in February, 28 Elizabeth (1586), by Edward Hyde the then lessee of the dean and chapter; and he complained that Thomas Houghton of the Lea had wrongfully entered thereon and taken possession.²³

Mr. Smith was still at Kirkham in 1590, when, in a dispute brought before the chancellor of the duchy, "a commission out of court was awarded to Thomas Eccleston of Eccleston; Will^m Skillycorne esq^r; James Smyth, clerke, vicar of Kirkeham; and George Duddell gent."²⁴ We have no record of his death.

The Smith family were at this time very numerous at Kirkham, and the advowson of the vicarage had probably been held by them for some time, but was now relinquished, as it was granted by the dean and chapter on the 8th December 1591 to Jo. Sharples for twenty-one years.²⁵ From a suit brought by Thomas Smyth of Kirkham yeoman against John Smyth respecting a burgage, lands &c., we gather that a Peers or Peter Smyth was great-grandfather of the defendant, "*i.e.* to say, father of John Smyth father of James Smyth father of John Smyth," and that Thomas Smyth the plaintiff, who was living in 1591, was the son of Peter and Margaret Smyth.²⁶

JAMES SHARPLES, B.A., 1591-94.

Instituted on the 17th November 1591 by the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford.²⁷ He was a graduate of St. John's college, Cambridge, and on his appointment gave bond to the

²² *Duchy Records*, vol. c, s. 3 (Cal. of Plead.)

²³ *Ibid.*, 30 Eliz., vol. cviii (Cal. of Plead.), and court of Beq., bundle iv, No. 450.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Eliz., vol. cix, chap. 17. Henry Colborne *versus* Thomas Colborne. Matter in dispute, lands at Wharton pool, Frekylton marsh, &c.

²⁵ *Records of Dean and Chapter of Christ Church.*

²⁶ *Duchy Records*, Eliz., vol. cxv, s. 3.

²⁷ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

bishop, his bondsman being "John Sharples of Frekylton yeoman."²⁸ Little is known respecting this vicar, but it may be assumed that he was of the same family as the purchaser of the advowson of the living: in 1598 this had passed to Cuthbert Sharples of Orford in the township of Warrington.²⁹

A branch of the family had for some time been resident in Kirkham, as in a deed dated 1479 mention is made of "Thomas Sharples de Kelymere in villa et in campi de Thystelton;"³⁰ and an inquisition post mortem was held in 19 Henry VIII. after the death of Thomas Sharples of Kellemere, who died on the 12th July 1527, and whose son William was then 15 years old.³¹ In 1589 a John Sharples was churchwarden of Kirkham, and in 1648 "Mr. George Sharples of Frekleton" was elected a feoffee of the Free grammar school.³²

James Sharples the vicar was buried at Kirkham on the 21st September 1594.

NICHOLAS HELME, M.A., 1594-98.

Presented by John Sharples on the 28th October, and instituted on the 20th November 1594.³³ In 1598 Nicholas Helme, vicar of Kirkham, was presented to the bishop "1st, for refusing to wear the surplice, especiallie upon Easter Sunday last; 2nd, administered the wine as it came from the cellar, without anie praiers or reverence; 3rd, vehementlie suspected to come to the vicarage by simonie or some composition; 4th, did kepe in his house another man's wyfe, without anie other company save one man, and so kept her for a whole year from her husband, and yet doth; 5th, refused to minister the sacrament last Easter day to Rich^d Wildinge, he beinge verie sick; 6th, Margaret Hornbye, widow, a blind woman, and another had beads in their hands when he was redie to minister the sacrament to them."³⁴

²⁸ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 42.

³⁰ Mr. J. Harland's *MSS.*

³² *Thirty-men's Records.*

³⁴ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 182.

²⁹ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

³¹ *Inq. post mort.*, Record office.

³³ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

This vicar was probably a descendant of the Nicholas Helme of Goosnargh, who married Alice, the daughter of Roger Whittingham of Whittingham. (See *History of Goosnargh*.) He was buried at Kirkham on the 16th July 1598.

He had a curate named Brian Rigges, who was interred at Kirkham on the 3rd April 1597.

ARTHUR GREENACRES, M.A., 1598-1627.

Presented to the vicarage on the 17th August 1598 by Cuthbert Sharples (son of John Sharples), of Orford, in Warrington, yeoman.³⁵

Arthur Greenacres was twice married. His first wife, Judith, was buried at Kirkham on the 10th May 1607; their son John having died on the 3rd February 1600. His second wife was Isabel Tomlinson, to whom he was married (see chapter VI.) on the 21st April 1616, and had issue Ralph (died 1641), Sara (baptised 1617), Benjamin (died of the great sickness in 1631), Jacob (baptised 1622) and John (baptised 1626).³⁶

He died in September 1627, and was buried at Kirkham on the 21st September. His widow survived him many years, and in 1646 she was practising as a "midwife," and described as a "godly woman."³⁷ (See p. 79.) She died in February 1658-59.

JOHN GERRARD, M.A., 1627-29.

Presented on the 24th December 1627 by the dean and chapter of Christ church, on the death of Arthur Greenacres. He held the living little more than a year, and resigned on the 9th March 1629.

On the 1st October 1627 Thomas Willis, B.A. of Christ church college, Oxford, was presented to the vicarage of Kirkham, but does not appear to have been instituted.³⁸

³⁵ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

³⁶ *Register of Kirkham*.

³⁷ *Strange signs from Heaven, &c.*; London, 1646.

³⁸ *Records of Dean and Chapter of Christ Church*.

EDWARD FLEETWOOD, M.A., 1629-50.

Succeeded to the vicarage shortly after the resignation of John Gerrard.³⁹

Edward Fleetwood was the fourth son of Edmund Fleetwood of Rosshall esq. and Elizabeth his wife, who was the daughter of John Cheney of Cheshamboys, Bucks. The eldest son was sir Paul Fleetwood knt., whose pedigree is recorded by Dugdale. (See Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 111.) Previous to his appointment here he lived in the south of England (see records of thirty-men), and whilst at Kirkham he appears to have been engaged in a series of quarrels with his parishioners and with his bishop. In 1636 he drew up a code of rules for the regulation of the conduct of the thirty sworn men (see chapter V.), and that ancient body, not thinking it wise to submit to them, were by the vicar kept out of the church for nearly two years. The vestrymen and churchwardens, having complained in vain to the bishop, at last appealed to the archbishop of York, and ultimately commenced a suit in the consistory court of Chester; it was not, however, until 1639 that the matter was finally settled, the judgment being against Mr. Fleetwood. (See records of thirty-men, chapter V.)

During this struggle the bishop, in a letter to the archbishop, characterised the vicar as a "sillie, wilful man," and adds: "whom I have used with all gentleness and lenity," but "he continues still in his contempt and addeth daily more forwardness thereto." (See chapter V.) On one occasion he was "very tartly" reprov'd by the bishop, because, being offended at something his lordship said, "he flong away (as it were in a rage) in some unseemly posture, sat him down, his back towards" him. (See chapter V.) He has also been described as "a very hot man" and "ambitious of power."⁴⁰

In 1641 he took away the parish books to London and retained them ten years.

In 1639 he was called upon by the bishop to answer certain

³⁹ *Records of Dean and Chapter of Christ Church.*

⁴⁰ William Langton, 1794.

charges preferred against him ; when he said “that the Litany had been constantly used by him or his curate⁴¹ on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but he had sometimes omitted to use the surplice.”⁴²

Notwithstanding all this disruption, in this same year the churchwardens spent for the vicar and his wife, for a quart of wine, 10*d.* (See *post.*)

To the famous *Harmonious Consent of the Ministers of the Province within the County Palatine of Lancaster, &c.*,⁴³ and to *The Paper called the Agreement of the People*,⁴⁴ is the signature of “Edward Fleetwood, pastor at Kirkham.”

A scarce tract, entitled *Strange Signes from Heaven*,⁴⁵ contains the following very remarkable certificate “under the hand of Mr. Edward Fleetwood, minister of Kirkham parish in Lancashire, concerning the monster brought forth by Mrs. Haughton, a papist, living in that parish.”

“As we must tell no lie, so we should conceal no truth ; especially as when it tends to God’s glory : There was a great papist, and of great parentage, within the parish of Kirkham, and his wives mother, being of the same religion, did usually scoffe and mock the roundheads, and, in derision of Mr. Prinne and others, cut off the cat’s eares, and called it by his name : But behold an example of the justice and equity of God in his judgements ; As Adonibezec was repaid in his own kind ; Haman hanged upon the same gallows he had prepared for Mordecai ; and Pharoah and all his hoast drowned in the sea, into which he had thought to have driven the Israelites. And likewise one of the popish prelates, who said he would not dine till Ridley and Latimer were burnt, was burned in his own intrails. So (much what alike) it fell out with this man’s wife, a popish creature, who being great with child, when the time of her delivery came,

⁴¹ The rev. William Armitstead.

⁴² Canon Raines’s *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 230.

⁴³ London, 1648.

⁴⁴ London, 1649.

⁴⁵ London, printed by T. Forcet in Old Fish street in Heydon court, 1646.

she brought forth a monstrous child without a head, ugly and deformed, my selfe [being] eye-witnesse thereof.

EDWARD FLEETWOOD, pastor.

W. GATTAKER,⁴⁶ midwife."

It appears, from the account given after the above certificate, that Mrs. Haughton, whilst talking to some "gentlemen," had said that "the puritans and independants deserve all to be hanged," and expressed a hope that neither she or hers should ever be roundheads, whereupon "answer was made to her, that her children, if she had any, might (if God so please) have their eyes opened, and see that good which she was ignorant of. Mrs. Haughton made answer again in these words, *I pray God that rather than I shal be a round-head or bear a round-head I may bring forth a child without a head.*" We are then informed that the monster child in due course was born, and buried at Kirkham, and that one "widow Gattaker, the midwife, formerly wife to Mr. Gattaker, sometime vicar of the said parish, she being a godly woman could not be eased in her mind, untill she had discharged her conscience in making it known to Mr. Fleetwood," but "for better satisfaction Mr. Fleetwood caused the grave to be opened, and the child to be taken out and laid to view, and found there a body without an head as the midwife had said, only the child had a face upon the breast of it, two eyes near unto the place where the paps usually are, and a nose upon the chest, and a mouth a little above the navell, and two ears, upon each shoulder one."

The certificate was "shewed before divers of the committee [? of the house of commons]; and by colonel More,⁴⁷ a member of the house of commons, brought up to London and shewed to divers of the house; who have commanded it to be printed, so that all the kingdome might see the hand of God herein; to the comfort of his people and the terrour of the wicked that deride and scorn them."

⁴⁶ A misprint for Greenacre.

⁴⁷ Colonel John Moore of Liverpool. (See *The Moore Rental.*)

Another account of this monstrosity is contained in Vicar's *Parliamentarie Chronicle*, p. 430, from which it appears that the child was born on the 20th June 1643, and that "misstris Haughton" was the wife of "master William Haughton of Prickmarsh in Kirkham in Lefeild." The writer further adds that "the grand-mother of this monster is shee (whom master Prinne, to her indelible and perpetual infamy, hath already set forth in print in his famous history of that pair royall of heroick-saints and sufferers, docter Bastwick, master Burton and master Prynne) who out of an inveterate malignity against, and in devilish derision of, those three foresaid pious worthies, called three cattis which she had by the names of those three precious Christians, and cut off the eares of those her three cattis, both in desperate distain of their glorious sufferings, and thereby also seeming jollily to re-act that more than Turkist tragedie."

Edward Fleetwood in 1646, when Lancashire was divided into classical presbyteries, was a member of the seventh classis.

He resigned the living in 1650, and went to Drayton in — ; and, as appears from an entry written on the margin of the Kirkham register, died in October 1665. His widow died on the 2nd August 1667, leaving a daughter Mary,⁴⁸ who married the rev. John Fisher, who succeeded to the vicarage.

JOHN FISHER, 1650–66.

No records have been preserved of his appointment, but it must have taken place towards the end of 1650. He was vicar for fifteen years, and died on the 17th March 1666, and was buried at Kirkham.⁴⁹ Previous to his coming to Kirkham he was "pastor of Bispham," and as such signed *The Paper called the Agreement of the People* in 1649, and, according to Calamy,⁵⁰ he was amongst those who "afterwards conformed." He died on the 18th March 1665–66, and was buried at Kirkham.

⁴⁸ It is not known whether or not this was the only issue.

⁴⁹ Evidence of his widow about mortuaries. (See *post*.)

⁵⁰ *Nonconformist's Memorial*, vol. ii, p. 111.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Fisher went to live at Steeple Claydon, Bucks, but subsequently returned to Kirkham, where she died, and was buried on the 15th November 1705. They had issue: Edward, baptised on the 9th December 1651; Mary, baptised on the 25th August 1653; James, who became vicar of Mentmore, Bucks (see Chapter VIII.); Joseph and Benjamin, twins, born in 1657; Charles, born in 1662; Thomas, baptised on the 3rd January 1664-65; and an only daughter, fleetwood, who was born on the 29th September 1662.⁵¹

RICHARD CLEGG, M.A., 1666-1720.

Richard Clegg was the representative of a very old Lancashire family, which for many centuries had lived at Stonehouse in Walsden in the parish of Rochdale, and which probably derived its name from the hamlets of Great and Little Clegg. By a deed, undated but supposed to be of the reign of Stephen, Quenilda, daughter of Bernulf de Clegg, granted to Michael de Hunresfeld certain lands which she had from Adam her husband before her marriage.⁵² And in a deed dated 8th July, 7 Edward IV. (1467), William Clegg is described as of Stonehouse,⁵³ which estate remained in possession of the family until the early part of the last century.

The father of the vicar of Kirkham was Richard Clegg of Stansfield in Halifax (the son and heir of Richard Clegg of Stonehouse) yeoman, who married in 1634 Mary, the daughter of John Eastwood of Eastwood in Halifax, Yorkshire, yeoman. He died about the year 1639, and his widow was buried at Rochdale on the 31st May 1672.⁵⁴ They left issue Richard and Mary Clegg.⁵⁵

⁵¹ It is not unlikely that the Peter Fisher, minister of Marten, may have been the father of John Fisher. (See record of thirty-men.)

⁵² Barrett's *MSS.*, Chet. library.

⁵³ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxi, p. 121.

⁵⁴ Canon Raines's *Lanc. MSS.*, and deeds in the author's possession.

⁵⁵ Mary Clegg married first, William Clegg of Makinholes in Langfield in Halifax,

Richard Clegg (the subject of this notice) was baptised at Heptonstall, Yorkshire, on the 31st May 1635, and probably received his early education at the Heptonstall grammar school. He matriculated as a servitor at the University college, Oxford, on the 1st April 1656, and graduated B.A. on the 28th February 1660 and M.A. on the 22nd October 1663. He was presented to the vicarage of Kirkham on the 4th June 1666;⁵⁶ and married in 1672 Jennet, the daughter of Henry Mitchell of Glusburne in Craven, Yorkshire, gentleman, and sister to Henry Mitchell of Moretown in the parish of Leeds gentleman.

Richard Clegg died in April 1720, aged 85 years, and was buried at Kirkham (see chapter VII.), his wife surviving him. She died on the 25th February 1725, and was interred in the family vault.

They had issue: Mary, who was born in September 1673, and married on the 16th February 1696-97 Emanuel Nightingale of the city of York gentleman, and left issue one daughter, who died unmarried; Dorothy, Abraham, Dorothy (second of that name) and Henry, all died in infancy; Elizabeth, baptised at Kirkham on the 3rd May 1685, married on the 29th February 1713 Robert Watson of Wakefield, son of Edmund Watson of Easthage, Yorkshire, gentleman (see Dugdale's *Visitation of York* 1666), and had issue Robert Watson, who died in 1756 s.p., and Jane Watson, who died a lunatic in 1772.⁵⁷

Beyond what will be found in the extracts from the records of the thirty-men and in the notice of Cuthbert Harrison (see p. 50 *et seq.*) we have little to add about vicar Clegg. He was no doubt, as Mr. Thornber puts it, "infected with the bitter spirit of the times," and hated a puritan with a cordial hatred.

He was frequently engaged in litigation with his parishioners,

and had issue William Law; second, James Byrom of Rhodes in Wardle in the parish of Rochdale, and left issue William Byrom, whose granddaughter, Mary Byrom, in 1800 was the representative of the vicar of Kirkham.

⁵⁶ *Records of Dean and Chapter*, Ch. Ch., Oxford.

⁵⁷ *Registers &c.*, and deeds in the author's possession.

and appears to have kept a vigilant watch over the doings of the vestrymen, the schoolmasters and the curates ; and at the same time not to have forgotten the wants of the poor. It is inscribed on his gravestone that "he began the poor's loaves 1670" (see chapter VII.); and the Todmorden free school owes its existence to this vicar of Kirkham, as in 1713 he conveyed to trustees a newly erected house in Todmorden for a school, together with the sum of 150*l*. By the trust deed it is directed that the master is to teach gratis one child to be sent by the owner of Stonehouse, one by the owner of Eastwood, and two from Todmorden and Walsden.⁵⁸

WILLIAM DICKSON, B.A., 1720-44.

The eldest son of Richard Dickson of Kirkham and Alice his wife (daughter of — Fayle). He was born in 1680 ; B.A. of Christ church college, Oxford, 20th February 1700.

Shortly after his ordination he became curate under the vicar of Blackburn, and whilst there he married Elizabeth Yates of that town. He was appointed to Kirkham on the 9th June 1720,⁵⁹ and died on the 19th April 1744, leaving two daughters : Alice, who was twice married (see p. 84), and Elizabeth, who died unmarried in 1781.⁶⁰ His wife died on the 6th May 1729.⁶¹

CHARLES BUCK, M.A., 1744-71.

He was a descendant of a long line of clergy. His great-grandfather, the rev. James Buck; B.D., was vicar of Stradbroke in Suffolk and chaplain to the earl of Lincoln, and preached before the house of lords on the restoration of Charles II. He left issue a son, the rev. Charles Buck, M.A., vicar of Cranbrooke in Kent, who married in 1659 Elizabeth Knight of Westminster, by whom he had several children, one of them being the rev.

⁵⁸ *Trust deed.*

⁵⁹ By the dean and chapter.

⁶⁰ The register shows burial of a son on the 30th March 1721.

⁶¹ Richard, the younger brother of the vicar, married Jennett, the daughter of Henry ffance of Little Eccleston, and had issue.

Charles Buck, M.A., vicar of Bacton in Norfolk, who married Mary —, and died in July 1745, having issue (with others) Charles Buck, who was born on the 25th May 1713, entered Christ church college, Oxford, on the 16th May 1730, and graduated B.A. on the 13th March 1733 and M.A. on the 20th October 1736. He was presented to the vicarage of Kirkham on the 26th June 1744.⁶² He married Alice, the widow of Jeoffrey Rishton of Kirkham gentleman, and daughter of the rev. William Dickson, M.A., vicar of Kirkham.

He died on the 16th April 1771, and his widow on the 8th November 1777 (see chapter VII.) and left issue an only son, Charles, who was afterwards curate of Goosnargh and Lund. (See p. 58.)

HUMPHREY SHUTTLEWORTH, M.A., 1771-1813.

The third son of Nicholas Shuttleworth of the city of Durham esq. and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Humphrey March of Foxton in the county of Durham esq. He was born on the 29th January 1735-36, and became a student at Christ church college, Oxford, on the 20th June 1753, B.A. on the 27th April 1757, and M.A. on the 18th March 1760. His father, who died on the 18th September 1770, left him 800*l.* and 100*l.* per annum. He was appointed vicar of Kirkham on the 18th July 1771⁶³ and vicar of Preston on the 30th October 1782. He married in February 1774 Anne, daughter of Philip Hoghton esq. (the second son of sir Charles Hoghton bart.) and Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward Rigby of Preston esq. (a descendant of Alexander Rigby of Middleton), and had issue: (1) Richard Henry, born on the 4th July 1780, died s.p.; (2) Philip Nicholas, born at Kirkham on the 9th February 1782, and is said to have been educated at the Preston grammar school, afterwards entered the New collêge, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1806, M.A. in 1811 and D.D. in

⁶² *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

⁶³ Shuttleworth pedigrees &c. (See *Shuttleworth Accounts*, p. 979.)

1822, subsequently for eighteen years held the office of warden, and in 1840 was appointed bishop of Chichester (see *Shuttleworth Accounts*, pp. 280-81)—he married in 1823 Emma Martha,⁶⁴ daughter of George Welch of High Leck, Lancashire, by whom he had one son, Philipp Ugtred, who died s.p. in 1841, and four daughters; (3) Mary Elizabeth; (4) Caroline, died in October 1827; and (5) Frances Anna, died in 1816.

The rev. Humphrey Shuttleworth was a prebendary of York (appointed on the 16th July 1791), and a king's preacher for Lancashire;⁶⁵ and was the author of a series of *Lectures on the Creed of Pope Pius IV.* and sundry tracts against popery. Although he resigned the vicarage of Preston in 1809 he still continued to reside there, going to Kirkham only on Easter Sunday or on other special occasions; his curate, the rev. Thomas Stephenson, being left in charge. He died at Preston on the 14th August 1812, aged 76, and was buried at Kirkham. His wife was buried at Walton on the 28th November 1783.⁶⁶

Mr. Shuttleworth has been described as "a man of truly singular and eccentric habits, but of a generous and charitable disposition."⁶⁷ He is said to have been known by the sobriquet of "Old Mumps." (*Shuttleworth Accounts*, p. 980.)

JAMES WEBBER, D.D., 1813-47.

The son of the rev. William Webber, a canon of Chichester in Sussex, and Anne (*née* Smith) his wife. He was born in 1772, educated at Westminster school, from whence he went to Christ church college, Oxford, in October 1789, and graduated B.A. on the 31st May 1791, M.A. on the 6th April 1796, B.D. on the 16th May 1807, and D.D. on the 14th May 1829. Dr. Webber was instituted to the vicarage of Kirkham on the 18th January 1813, having previously been vicar of Sutton in the Forest, Yorkshire. On the 29th May 1812 he was appointed a prebendary of York,

⁶⁴ In the *Shuttleworth Accounts* said to be "Anna."

⁶⁵ *Gent. Mag.*, vol. lxxxiii, p. 287; Le Neve's *Fasti Eccles.*, vol. iii, p. 225.

⁶⁶ *Church Register.*

⁶⁷ *Account of the Borough of Preston*, 1821.

on the 19th February 1816 a prebendary of Westminster, and on the 24th November 1828 he became dean of Ripon. He married Caroline Fynes, the daughter of the rev. Charles Fynes Clinton, D.D., prebendary of Westminster and rector of St. Margaret's; and on the death of his father-in-law in 1827 he succeeded to the latter appointment, which, however, he resigned in 1835.⁶⁸ In addition to the above appointments, in 1811 he was chaplain to the archbishop of York,⁶⁹ and in 1813 chaplain to the house of commons.⁷⁰

He died at Ripon on the 3rd September 1847, aged 75, having issue: (1) William Charles Fynes Webber, M.A., minor canon of St. Paul's, rector of St. Botolph without, Aldersgate; (2) Emma Anne Georgina; (3) Charles James Webber, who died in 1850; and four other children, who died in infancy.

Dr. Webber was extremely short in stature, and was of sharp, active habits, and in manner somewhat hasty. When a student and tutor at college he was a great favourite of the celebrated Dr. Jackson, dean of Christ church.

The following notes⁷¹ were penned by Dr. Webber in the register book of Kirkham:

“For the use of my successors.”

The vicarage “is by prescription and by the ecclesiastical survey w^{ch} was made in the reign of Henry 8th, possessed of every species of tithe, excepting the corn, in the parish. A great disposition was formerly shewn among the 30 men to manage *all* the concern of the parish without consulting the vicar and churchwardens. The vicar will do well always to assert and maintain his full right and power, even in the most minute points.

“He is now as he ought to be, the first person in the place.”

⁶⁸ See *Gent. Mag.*, vol. xxviii, part ii, p. 551 (new series).

⁶⁹ *Gent. Mag.* 1811.

⁷⁰ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

⁷¹ Not quoted in full.

GEORGE LODOWICK PARSONS, M.A., 1847-52.

He was the son of the rev. James Parsons, B.D., rector of Newnham and vicar of Little Dean in the county of Gloucester (the learned editor of the *Oxford Septuagint*), and Sophia his wife. He matriculated at Christ church college, Oxford, on the 21st December 1827, B.A. on the 26th January 1832, and M.A. on the 7th June 1834. He was appointed perpetual curate of Bensington, Oxford, in August 1835, and vicar of Kirkham on the 15th December 1847. He married Maria Joanna, daughter of the late Thomas Birley of Milbank in Kirkham esq., and died on the 27th May 1852, aged 41, and was buried at Hove, Brighton, leaving one son, James Parsons.

WILLIAM LAW HUSSEY, M.A., 1852-62.

Instituted on the 24th August 1852. He was a student of Christ church college, Oxford, and graduated B.A. on the 14th May 1835 and M.A. on the 26th October 1837. Before coming to Kirkham he was curate of Witham, Essex (1845-48), and curate of Curzon chapel, May Fair, London (1850-52). In 1856 he was appointed honorary canon of Manchester. He vacated the vicarage of Kirkham on the 5th July 1862, on institution to the rectory of Ringstead, Norfolk.

GEORGE RICHARD BROWNE, M.A.

The present vicar. Instituted on the resignation of the rev. W. L. Hussey. He is M.A. of Christ church college, Oxford, and rural dean.

CHAPTER V.

THE RECORDS OF THE THIRTY
SWORN MEN.

THE name "sworn men" was given as early as the fourteenth century to certain men selected by parishioners to take charge of the affairs of the parish.¹ These sworn men were not the churchwardens, who were always elected annually, but a kind of select committee of the parish, the members of which remained in office generally until they left the district, or were removed by death.

The oath which they took was administered by the civil, and not the ecclesiastical, power; and in many important respects the institution of the sworn men differed from that of an ordinary select vestry.

The duties which they undertook to discharge were very numerous; and whilst they acted as the guardians of the parish property, they appointed the churchwardens, and even at times laid claim to the right of nominating the clergyman. (See *History of Goosnargh*.)

The institution of the sworn men appears to be peculiar to this part of the country. Preston, Lancaster, Garstang and Goosnargh each had their "four-and-twenty men;" whilst in Kirkham only the body consisted of thirty members.

The original manuscript volumes, containing the records of the "thirty men of Kirkham" from 1570 to 1734, have probably been destroyed. In 1794 the more ancient one was described

¹ *The Parish*, by Toulmin Smith; London, 1857. See also *History of Goosnargh*, pp. 51-52.

as having lost the first forty pages, and the remainder as "so tattered and defaced, and the ink so pale, that few of them can now be made out," and the volume beginning in 1638 was then in the possession of the parish clerk (Thomas John Swan).² It may be presumed that both these had disappeared prior to 1839, when the copies taken by William Langton in 1794 were received in evidence in a chancery suit.³

From this copy of William Langton's⁴ we take the following extracts, which, it is well here to note, were not in every instance copied *verbatim et literatim*. It is also to be regretted that the copyist has not preserved to us more of the lists of the thirty-men, which (as in the Goosnargh records) often furnish so much valuable genealogical information. The names of those in office in 1570, however, form the first extract, the township which they represented being in each instance notified.

EXTRACTS.

" 1570.

" Kirkham :

James Baine.

James Clayton.

Clifton :

William Porter.

Tho^s Cardwell.

Freckleton :

Hen^{ry} Colbron.

Ric^d Browne.

Warton :

W^m Platon.

Rob^t Fletcher.

Bryning :

Rob^t Croke.

John Croke.

Ribby :

—— Benson.

Henry Shaw.

² Every effort has been made to find these manuscripts, but no trace of them can be discovered.

³ Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood and others *versus* Drapers' company.

⁴ William Langton was the second son of Thomas Langton (a thirty-man of Kirkham) and Jane his wife, daughter of William Leyland of Blackburn. He married Mary, daughter and coheiress of Dr. Starky of Redvales near Bury, and his descendant, William Langton of Manchester esq., is now in possession of the manuscripts above alluded to. For pedigree of this old Lancashire family see Baines's *Hist. of Lancashire*.

Singletons :

James Davy.

W^m Smith.

Larbrick :

Rob^t Johnson.

Will. Fletcher.

Thistleton :

Joh. Smith.

Rob^t Cornay.

Wesham :

Rob^t Hornby.

Henry Johnson.

Treales :

W^m Swarbrick.

Tho^s Porter.

Hambleton :

Rob^t Bradshaw.

W^m Bamber.

"Nov. the * * * James Porter, Nich. Fayre, John * * * Edw^d Hankinson, ch^{ch}wardens, made up their acc^{ts} before sir Ja^s [James Smith the vicar] clearke and the 30 men of the same parish — the parish owed to the s^d ch^{ch}wardens xiv^d, as appears by their acc^{ts} more at large.

"28 of the 30 men agreed upon a lay^s of v. shillings to be levied on each township forthwith.

"1571.

"Nov. 2. The ch'wardens gave in an acc^t of the disbursements to syr Ja^s Smith vicar of the same church, and were taken by the 30 men.⁶ Rec^d for burial of a child of M^r Veyle⁷ in the church xii^d. The ch'wardens went several times to Richmond about a suit with Nich. Tompson and others this year, the journey cost 13/s.⁸

"Paid for a scholar verifying the ch'warden's acc^{ts}.

"The ch'wardens received at Easter day for playgpens[?] 21s/2^d. Goosnargh church paid its composition that y^r to the parish of 10/s. [See *History of Goosnargh*.]

"The great bell taken down this year and a new one put up.

"1572.

"The 30 men elected * * * Arkwright clerk of the church,

⁵ A rate, or gauld.

⁶ "The remainder of this meeting defaced" (William Langton).

⁷ One of the Veales of Whinney Heys.

⁸ Here (as elsewhere) William Langton is evidently only stating what took place, and not quoting *verbatim* from the old manuscript.

and ordered that he should be resident to teach singing to all such as chose to apply to the art of music 3 days a week. There were three legacies left to the parish this year of 10/s, 3^s/4^d and 1/s.

" 1574.

" Rec^d for the burial of Mr. Veale's wife in the church, 1/s.

" A fodder of slate at the delf cost 2/s.

" 31 May an assessm^t laid upon each township of 4/s, which was dissented from by 5 of them present because the Peter's penny may not be paid first.⁹

" 1576.

" Nov. 29 it was agreed that Ge^o Kellet shall be clerk for 'one hole yeare' from the feast of All Saints last past, and shall keep a 'songe Boke'¹⁰ free for the parishioners.

" xii^d rec^d for burial of a strange woman.

" xii^d rec^d for burial of Braddkyrke's wife.¹¹

" ii^s paid for dressing the organs.

" 1577.

" In ch^rd^{ns} accts. is a charge of xii^s when they went to Ormskirk before the queen's commission^{rs}. The ch^{ch}wardens were ordered by the vicar and 30 men to continue in office another year (by way of punishment, because they had not repaired the bells or levied the gauld of x^s per township.

" 1578.

" Rec^d for the burial of Mr Clifton's son, xii^d.

" " " " " Mr^s Shawe, xii^d.

" 1579.

" James France was a 30 man for Kirkham.

⁹ This payment of one penny is said to have been instituted by Ina, king of the West Saxons, in 724, on the occasion of his pilgrimage to Rome. It was not a tribute to the pope, but an alms in support of an English college at Rome. It was collected on St. Peter's day; hence its name. (See *Notes and Queries*, third series, vol. iv, p. 257.)

¹⁰ The inverted commas are William Langton's, who adds that on this and other occasions the names "*pro* and *con*" are given, and the decision given out by the foreman (or chairman). In this particular case "Thomas Buck gave the verdict in the name of all: John Browning agreed not thereto."

¹¹ " 18 Dec. 1576 Anne wife of Lawrence Bradkirke was buried." (*Register*.)

"Agreed that absent 30 men not being able to give good cause after warning given in the church should pay ii^s.

"1580.

"Mr Clifton,¹² buried in the church, paid xii^d.

"Item the first voyage to Manchester, xxxii^s.

„ for 2 quarts of wine and for expedition, xvii^d.

"1581.

"W^m Swarbrick of the Grange left to the church a legacy of iii^s iv^d.

"1583.

"It was agreed that every township should pay xl^s towards the buying of a base bell and a clock, except Kirkham, which should pay 6*l*.; if the sums were not sufficient then Kirkham to be assessed along with the other townships.

"1585.

"School first mentioned. [See chapter VIII.]

"1586.

"Is a charge of the churchwardens for making the vicar a seat, xii^d.

"An order that each householder having a youth with a plough having 4 beasts shall pay iv^d.

"Every one that married with another, ii^d; and every cottage, i^d.¹³

"1587.

"John France 30 man for Larbrick, and Ja^s France for Kirkham.

"1588.

"No one to bury in the church without paying iii^s iv^d before the ground was opened. P^d Christopher Singleton for writing a letter for them to M^r commissary at Lancaster, iv^d. The great or base bell p^d for, xlviii^l xiv^s iv^d.

¹² Mr. Clifton of Westby.

¹³ This is in the vicar's own hand, and signed "James Smith, 2nd of that name." Eighteen sign this order, all by making their marks, except James Baine and Cuthbert Harrison.

" 1589.

"Rec^d of John Parker of Bradkirk for a pillar for his quire, xii^d.¹⁴

"John Sharples, gentleman, ch^hwarden this year.

"M^r Skillicorne was a powerful person in the town at this time.¹⁵

"Sir George Cowburne, clerk, late parson of Warley, left a legacy of 20/s towards repairs of the church, which was paid to the ch^hwardens by Henry and Laurence Cowburne.¹⁶

" 1592.

"Rec^d for the burials of M^r Westby and R^d Dicconson, ii^s.

" 1595.

"Pd to M^r Barton for maimed soldiers and acquittances, viii^s ix^d.

" on Whitsunday for wine for communion, iii^d.

"The churchwardens charge xii^d for tarrying with M^r vicar when he gave warning to all housekeepers not to sell ale during the time of service.

" 1597.

"Sir George Colbron died and was buried at Kirkham in the church, p^d xii^d. for the same.¹⁷

"Cuth^t Clifton buried in the church.

"Pd M^r Colwige when he preached, iii^s iv^d.

„ a stranger when he made another sermon, xii^d.

"Item for M^r Wilson for a sermon, ii^s.

" 1600.

"25 April Ralph Como was chosen a 30 man in place of Jn^o

¹⁴ The Bradkirk estate had a pew in the church up to the time of its rebuilding.

¹⁵ This is evidently not an extract, but an inference drawn by William Langton.

¹⁶ Henry Cowburne and Laurence Cowburne died seized of messuages and land in Freckleton. (*Inq. post mort.*, 3 and 4 James I.) The *inq. post mort.* of another Laurence was held in 20 James I.; he also held possessions in Freckleton. By an *inq. post mort.* taken at Preston on the 11th January 1587-88 it appears that John Cowburne died seized of a messuage and twenty acres of land &c. in Freckleton, which was held of the queen, as of the late abbey of Deulacres, by fealty, and rent of "8½^d per ann.—the same being worth xx^s iii^d." His sisters and coheiresses were Janet, wife of Richard Butler, aged 38 years; and Helen, wife of Henry Freckleton, aged 30 years. (*Duchy Records.*)

¹⁷ "Jan. 18, 1596-97. Buried sir George Cowbron of Freckleton." (*Par. Reg.*)

Goose [see chapter X.], and W^m Bradkirk in the room of his father W^m Bradkirk, deceased.

“ 1601.

“ Glass for church window cost vii^d per foot.

“ Mr W^m Skillicorne and his two children were buried here, and pd. vi^s viii^d and iii^s iv^d.

“ A note of all such books and other things belonging to the church, and delivered unto Henry Baine parish clerk, 1600.

“ First 1 fair large Bible, 1 Common Prayer book, 2 old platters, 1 Prayer book for the coronation, 1 book of the 2nd tome of the Homilies, 1 book of Instructions, 1 Book of Martyrs, 1 book of Canons, a new register book of presentm^{ts} * * * 1 communion cup, with awe [arve] of silver * * * 1 book of the acts and monuments given to the parish before 1600 and sent from London by John Cowban, now dwelling in * * * one mile from Canterbury, and born in Kellemer within the parish.¹⁸ [See chapter VIII.]

“ 1603.

“ Agreed that all the old register books shou^d be put into the new register book in parchment which have been since the beginning of our late queen Elizabeth.

“ Rushes to strew the church cost ix^s vi^d. The churchwardens went through the parish to warn the people to come to church.

“ 1604.

“ Spent when we did look for the coming of sir Edward Warren.¹⁹ Spent when we were commanded to meet sir Edw^d Warren and sir Richard Houghton, xiv^d.

¹⁸ William Langton adds that he was born at the house at Carr Side, then occupied by John Crook.

¹⁹ The eldest son of John Warren of Poynton esq. He was born in 1593, high sheriff of Cheshire in 40 Elizabeth, and was knighted whilst in the Irish wars. He was twice married: first to —, daughter of sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth knt.; second to Ann, daughter of sir William Davenport of Bramall knt. (or, as some say, only esq.), and had numerous issue (by the second wife only). He died on the 13th November 1609. (*Watson's Mem. of Earls of Warren.*)

" 1604-5.

"Spent when Westby lordship did communicate, ii^s; when Clifton lordship did communicate, x^d.

" 1606.

"Agreed that * * * there be set up a rank of seats and forms at the west side of the church and the north side, and also 15 long forms in the middle of the church. Those of the west and north sides to be free or common for every one. And the 15 forms to be for p'ishes, viz. every township to have their form, and that by lot.

" 1607.

"July 16. Ordered that another rank of forms shall be made * * * thro' the middle of the church, about 15 or 17, that the same be for all married men.

"P^d for mending the organ lid, ii^d.

" 1610.

"Cuthbert Cardwell appointed a 30 man in the room of W^m Parker of Wesham.²⁰

"Given by consent of M^r vicar, to Isabel Coulbron, vi^d. [See chapter VIII.]

" 1612.

"De. 12. It was agreed that Ja^s Bradley's quire or pew, that which was late William Parker's of Ribby, and Nicholas Hull's, should all be removed.

"Agreed that a new gauld of xii^s on each township should be levied for the purpose of making and erecting a clock in the church, which after being set up * * * was to be maintained at the expense of the town of Kirkham.

" 1613.

"The second bell, cast at Congleton, cost viii^l iii^s o^d.

"Spent when M^r Blackwell and M^r Roddge [? Roddy] did preach, viii^s viii^d.

²⁰ William Langton adds that he soon gave way for John Parker, probably of Bredkirk.

"Pd for dighting the church, v^s.

„ to one W^m Davies which had a license from lord Mount-eagle and others, ii^s.

"Pd John Laurenson for making the clock, vi^l xii^s o^d.

"Given to Valentine Southwell and his company, which had the king's broad seal, iii^s iv^d.

" 1615.

"Agreed that neither vicar nor minister shall neither of them gather oth [? ought] in the parish of custom nor benevolence.

" 1616.

"Spent on M^r Morres vicar of Blackburn²¹ and his company, vi^s viii^d.

"Spent in going through the parish to take the names of men's children, and in meeting the comm^{sr} to receive the king's book, and in delivering them, xiv^s vi^d.

" 1618.

"Pd to Isabel Birley²² 3 weeks diet for 3 slaters at iii^s iv^d per week, xxx^s. Bestowed towards the loss of the fire that was in Lancaster, at the request of the l^d judge, lord Gerrard, sir Rich. Mollineux and others, v^s.

" 1623.

"Agreed that no brief or gathering shall be gathered within the church but shall be gathered by the ch^{ch}wardens at their discretion.

" 1624.

"William Thompson and Tomlinson usher of the school. He had [for wages] x^s a quarter, ordered by the 30 men, and cock penny.²³

²¹ John Morres was vicar of Blackburn from February 1606 until his death in 1628.

²² See chapter VIII.

²³ Formerly the schoolmasters claimed the run-away cocks as their perquisites, and when the popular games of cockfighting and throwing at cocks fell into disuse the fee of one penny was paid to the master in lieu thereof. (See Strutt's *Sports and Pastimes*.) In 1824 the cock penny was still paid at Shrovetide.

" 1627.

" Feb. 24. Ordered by the 30 men that each 30 man should give notice to his neighbour to withhold their halfpence and farthings which usually they paid at Easter for twitching [?] money until further orders.

" 1623.

" Pd to Mr Armitstead, schoolmaster, for making a sermon, ii^s.

" 1624.

" Sunday shillings were at this time gathered by the king's orders and delivered to the justices.

" 1625.

" Spent in going about the parish about the brief for the poor people infected with the plague in London, xii^d.

" Fast days appointed twice a month, and in Sep. this year 4 days.

" 1627.

" Spent on Mr vicar [Gerrard] on his 1st coming, viii^s ii^d.

" Spent at Preston at Mr vicar's parting, iii^s.

" 1628.

" Given to Mr Barker the minister, iv^s.²⁴

" 1630-31.

" This year was a great plague in Kirkham, in which the more part of the people of the town died thereof. It began about the 25th July and continued vehemently until Martinmas, but was not clear of it before Lent, and divers towns of the parish was infected with it, and many died thereof out of them, as Treales, Newton, Greenall, Newton, Ribby, Estbrick and Thistleton.

" 1631.

" Paid to the constable of Treales for the relief of such as were shut up for fear of the sickness.

" Paid for wine and sugar which Mr Fleetwood (the vicar) and Mr Armitstead (the curate) had when we were sworn, 10^d.

²⁴ This may possibly refer to the rev. James Barker, the founder of the Kirkham scholarships. (See chapter VIII.)

" 1632.

"Given to a preacher that went from church to church at the request of vicar and 30 men.

"Paid for perfuming the church, xxx^s.

" „ for carrying the rushes out of the church in the sickness time, v^s.

"Spent at Hambleton the day of thanksgiving after sickness, ii^s.

"Given to Ric^d Barnes's child, to help him up to London, that had the king's evil.²⁵

" 1634.

"April 10. P^d for the exercise, and for the moderators and the preacher, iv^s iii^d.

"The church was flagged this year.

"The great wind this year in February.

" 1636.

"Rec^d for the burial of Isabel Wilding²⁶ in the church, v^s."

Here ends the oldest volume.

The next book is entitled: "A record of the acts and doings of the 30 men of the parish of Kirkham, about such things as concern the election of churchwardens, paying gaulds for the use and reparation of the church, and taking of the churchwardens' accounts, beginning in this book 27 Mar. anno 1638. How good and joyful a thyng it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The thirty-men for 1638 were:

Kirkham:

Rob. Dobson.

Tho^s Parker.

Freckleton:

Rich^d Harrison.

Hen^r Robinson.

Newton with Scales:

Tho^s —

John Hornbie.

Clifton with Salwick:

Tho^s Cardwell.

Rich. Clarkson.

²⁵ Very full information on this custom will be found in *Charisma Basilicon*, by John Browne chirurgeon in ordinary to his majesty, 1684; see also *Evelyn's Diary*, 1684. In 1682 the king "touched" eight thousand five hundred people. (Macaulay's *Hist. of England*.)

²⁶ The benefactress to the Free school. (See chapter VIII.)

Treales, Wharless, Roseacre :	Weeton :
Henry Wilkins.	Law ^{co} Worthington.
John Swarbrick.	W ^m Townend.
Warton :	Singletons :
James Dickson.	Rich ^d Faile.
Robert Noblet.	Ge ^o Buller. ²⁸
Bryning with Killermersgh :	Greenall with Thistleton :
Edw ^d Buckley, ²⁷ gent.	Henry Carter.
[or Bradley.]	William Bain.
Will. Riding.	Larbrick with Eccleston :
Ribby with Wrea :	William Tomison.
John Nixon.	John Tomison.
Cuthbert Bardkirk.	Wesham and Medlar.
Westby with Plumpton :	George Johnson.
Tho ^s Robinson.	George Hornbie.
George Cowban.	

Hambleton :

George Carter.

John Carter.

EXTRACTS.

“ 1636.

“Vicar Fleetwood required the 30 men to subscribe to the following conditions :

“ 1st They shall lay no gauld themselves without the consent of the vicar.

“ 2nd That the vicar shall have a negative voice in all their proceedings, and that they shall determine nothing without the consent of the said vicar.

“ 3rd they shall not put or elect any new 30 men without the vicar's consent.

²⁷ There can be little doubt but that the name intended is Edw^d Bradley of Brining.

²⁸ This family was here in 1585-86, when William Buller, the infant son of George Buller of Little Singleton deceased, appeared as plaintiff in the duchy court about certain lands of which he held a lease. (Record office, vol. xcvi, B. 4.)

"4. They shall not meet in the church upon any business whatever unless they acquaint the vicar before.

"5. If there be any turbulent or fascitious person, that the rest of the company shall joyne with the vicar and turn him oute.

Signed ED^w FLEETWOOD.

"The 30 men not choosing to submit to these conditions, he kept them by violence out of the church until 5 Nov. 1638, when, being called upon by the churchwardens to attend in order to lay the taxes for the repair of the church, then much decayed, the vicar locked himself in the church, as before he had many times done."

An appeal was ultimately made to the archbishop of York, and the matter in dispute was referred to the bishop of Chester, who decided

"That the corporation or company of 30 men, not having any warranty from the king, was nothing in law ; but if the parish or township did delegate the power to the 30 men as to church matters, then their acts relating thereunto were as effectual and binding as if they had the king's sanction ; and wishing to know the affection of the parishioners on this head, he issued an order 22 Nov. 1638 that public notice sh^d be given in the church for all the parish^{nrs} * * * to meet and give their voices whether they chose that the custom of the 30 men respecting the whole parish, two for every township, should continue, or they should be dissolved.²⁹

"Notice was given * * * and great multitudes having met, they were obliged to confer in the church-yard (the vicar having locked the church door) * * * they declared that their ancient custom might be continued and preserved to their posterities as it had come down to them from their ancestors, and that they freely gave their power and strength to the said 30 men, to confer and determine all church matters."

²⁹ The vicar neglected to obey this order ; so the churchwardens had to issue the notice.

This was signed by the following "particular men" and four hundred and eighty-three parishioners.³⁰

"Mr Tho ^s Clifton,	}	esquires.
„ Jn ^o Westbie,		
„ Tho ^s Langtree,		
„ Alex. Rigby, ³¹		
„ Tho ^s Hesketh,		
„ Edw ^d Veale,	}	gentlemen."
„ John Parker,		
„ Edw ^d Bradley,		
„ Rich ^d Burgh,		
„ Roger Haddock,		
„ Will ^m Hall,		

The bishop, on receiving the petition signed as above, wrote to the archbishop of York :

"Chester palace, 14 Dec. 1638.

"Seeing the vicar (whom I have used with all gentleness and lenity) continues still in his contempt, and addeth daily more forwardness thereunto, I must return the petitioners to my lord's grace of York, to be ordered by the high commissier according to his grace's intimation signified in his * * * I wish well to the sillie, wilful man, but he makes himself uncapable thereof.

JOHN CESTRIENSIS."

The thirty-men, not receiving the satisfaction they desired from this source, commenced "a suit in the consistory court at Chester, and hav^g proved their custom good, had sentence agst him [the vicar], and had 20*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* allowed towards their charges." "The 30 men were admitted into the church on Easter Tuesday 1639."³²

"This year Alexander Rigby esq. of Preston endeavoured to

³⁰ William Langton did not copy the names (except as above) ; perhaps they were not furnished in the original manuscript.

³¹ Alexander Rigby of Middleton in Goosnargh.

³² Notwithstanding this dispute, the thirty-men bestowed this year "upon the vicar and his wife a quart of wine and sugar, 10*d.*"

prevent the organ stairs [? being built] by laying claim to a pew * * * but the court of Chester decided against him.

“ 1641.

“ This year between Christmas and Shrovetide the church was broken into, and the iron chest was broken open, and the green covering for the communion table and all the other cloths in the chest stolen ; and a coffer in which was the parish book, and the old book of the order and decree of Chester court about the suit between M^r Fleetwood and the parish, were cast abroad in the church ; and M^r Fleetwood, coming into the church, took the old and new parish books, and detained them from the parish for 10 y^{rs}, having bro^t them to London, and w^dnt restore them whilst he stayed, but being called into the south to the place where he lived before he came to Kirkham (see p. 77), and placing M^r Fisher (see p. 81), his son-in-law in his stead. M^r Fisher sent for them to London, and restored them to the parish.”

In consequence, the accounts of 1641 were never entered.

“ 1643.

“ P^d for slating M^r Clifton's quire 1*l*. 5*s*. 3*d*., and for organ pipes, which had been pulled asunder by the souldiers, 3*s*. 4*d*. The churchwardens were demanded to attend the prime sessions at Weeton. 12 June they were ordered by the captains and other officers to make presentment of all recusants in the parish. In August they were employed several days at the parish cost about the covenant, and giving notice through the parish for them to take the covenant.”

1644.

From May to September there is no account of disbursement, “ prince Rupert's army hav^g command of the country, and there was no attendance, many having fled away.

“ Sep. 22. For setting up the king's arms, 2*d*.

“ 1646.

“ Ordered that no churchwardens shall hereafter spend upon the minister who shall preach on exercise days and themselves more than 3*s*. 4*d*.

" 1648.

" Pd to two souldiers, 4s. 'The churchwardens spent for their Sunday dinners' in nine months this year, '2*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*'

" 5 July. Pd to W. Bamber for gathering moss for the church, 14*s.*

" 1650.

" Received from Eupronia Paterson for the burial of William, 5*s.*; ditto of Mr George Sharples for burial of his child in the church, 6*s.* 8*d.* Keep of a child, 2*l.* a year. A spade, 20*d.*

" 1651.

" 24 June. Given to two Irishmen who had a pass, 3*s.* 4*d.* An order made to sue the churchwardens of Goosnargh church, if they did not pay the usual rent of 10*s.* yearly towards the expense of the mother church.

" 29 Sep. Ten of the 30 men fined for non-attendance, 2*s.* 6*d.* each.

" 1653.

" Aug. 4. It was agreed that in future if any of the 30 men sh^d die, he sh^d have liberty to be buried in the church without any bidding; ³³ also agreed that whenever any of the 30 men died all the rest should attend his funeral without any bidding. The 30 men elected Mr W^m Swarbrick of Eccleston as a feoffee for the Free school, in the room of George Buller of Singleton, deceased. [See p. 99.]

" 1653-54.

" 6 Jan. It was agreed that no scriffener be suffered to teach in the church, unless he procure some honest townsmen of Kirkham to pass their word that whatsoever his scholars do, either in breaking glass or abusing men's seats — and that they meddle not with the bells — he shall make good what they abuse.

" 1654.

" March 28. Richard Duddell of Salwick gave freely towards

³³ This order was cancelled in 1660 and revived in 1730.

recasting the great bell, 20s., and the same day M^r W^m Duddell³⁴ of Newton was elected a 30 man.

"Thomas Wilkinson of Little Singleton elected a 30 man.

" 1655.

"Gave to 4 poor people who had testimonies, 8s. 6d.

"Bread and wine for Hambleton chapel paid for by the parish.

" 1656.

"April 3. The 30 men ordered M^r Geo. Sharples, M^r Chris. Parker and James Smith the younger³⁵ to take care to write to M^r Cowban of London the trustees for his will, and to have their charges borne of the parish. [See chapter VIII.]

"Given to a company of poor Irish people by the ch^hwardens, 2s.

" 1657.

"Gave to a poor woman whose husband was slain in Ireland, 1s.

" „ to a poor man who had been robbed by the Turks, 1s.

"The churchwardens spent at that exercise that M^r Gee³⁶ and M^r Brownsword³⁷ preached the 12 May, 6s. 6d.

³⁴ In 30 Elizabeth (1589-90) a George Duddell died seized of messuages, lands &c. in Freckleton, Larbricke, Newton cum Scales, Grenall, &c. His son and heir was William Duddell, then aged 20 years and upwards. (*Inq. Post Mort.*, Record office.)

³⁵ By deed dated 24th December Charles II. (1665) James Smith of Church street, Kirkham, yeoman, and James Smith second son of said James Smith, granted to William Walker of Prees four parcels of land in Kirkham, for two thousand years, at a pepper-corn rent and a sum then paid. (*Deed* in the author's possession.)

³⁶ Edward Gee was the Presbyterian minister of Eccleston, and by the Oliverian surveyors is called "an orthodox preaching minister." He was married on the 22nd June 1640, at Eccleston, to Elizabeth Raymond, and he was buried there on the 29th May 1660. He was one of the "pastors" who signed *The Agreement of the People* in 1649. He published: *Steps of Ascension to God: or a Ladder to Heaven* (of which the twenty-seventh edition appeared in 1677; *The Divine Right and Original of the Civill Magistrate from God*, London, 1658; and *A Treatise of Prayer, and of Divine Providence as related to it*, 2nd edition, London, 1666. According to Wood (*Ath. Ox.*) there was an Edward Gee "chaplain in ordinary to his majesty," who died in 1618, and whom he supposes to be the father of the minister of Eccleston. A third rev. Edward Gee, who was the son of a shoemaker, was born in Manchester in 1659, became M.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge, and rector of St. Benedict's church, Paul's wharf, and chaplain in ordinary to William III. and Mary. (See *Ath. Ox.*, and *Notes and Queries*,

"13 Sep. Given to 2 gentlewomen who had orders for collections, 3s. 4d. Spent when they met the constables to make present^{mts} of all recusants * * *

"Paid Law^e Grimbaldeston for a fox head, 1s.

"1659.

"Given to a poor gentleman who had a brief for the redeem his father, a prisoner in Turkey, 4s. 6d.

"Given to a Cornwall man who had an order for a collection to redeem his father from the Turks * * *

"1661.

"Hugh Horneby of Bankfield elected a 30 man for Singletons.

"The old churchwardens continued this year, because the 30 men had not had time to meet at the usual time in Easter week, on account of the great business of the election of knights for the parliament.³⁸

"1662.

"April 1. W^m Eccleston of Cornah Row ordered to be sued if he did not return the Book of Martyrs he had taken from the church.³⁹

"Paid to widowe Castrey, trumpetar's wife of Rachdale, who had her husband slain upon the coronation day.

"29 Sep. Paid to Ferdinanda Clifton for the drawing the king's arms and commandments, 7l. 13s. 4d.

"A font put up this year cost 2l. 15s. 4d.⁴⁰

fourth series, vol. xii, pp. 439-501.) He was the author of the *Jesuit's Memorial for the Destruction of the Church of England* and other kindred works.

³⁷ William Brownsword was in 1658-59 described as a "clerke, formerly of Preston, now minister of Kendal" (*Preston White Book*), and in 1649 as "pastor at Douglas" in Eccleston parish. He signed *The Agreement of the People*, and in 1650 he was still at Douglas.

³⁸ The handwriting of the parish book here changes, and William Langton thinks that the writer up to 1661 was Thomas Robinson of Westby (see *post*).

³⁹ It was recovered shortly afterwards and rebound.

⁴⁰ William Langton calls it the "old font." It is probably the one now (1873) in the tower entrance to the church.

" 1665.

" 28 May. Paid for slating and mossing the church, 10*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

" Given to a poor woman called Ann Bullan, which had 2 children, to go up to London to be served of the king, 2*s.* 6*d.*

" Two assessments were made: one for his majesty's officers and soldiers, and the other for the prisoners in the Marshalsea.

" 1666.

" May 3^d. Ordered the sum of 50*s.* to be paid to M^r Peter Fisher⁴¹ for his pains in preaching at the parish church 8 several days since the late M^r Fisher's decease.

" Spent on going perambulations on Ascension day, 1*s.* 6*d.*

" Given to M^r Jepson for the distresses in London, 17*s.* 6*d.*

" Paid to 3 Irish widows who lost their husbands in the Dutch wars, 2*s.* 6*d.*

" Paid to the relief of John Orburn, a Russian merchant, who lost by pirates 1000*l.*, and to prisoner in debt at Ludgate, 3*s.* 6*d.*

" 1676.

" Paid to M^r Thomas Whitehead, a poor old minister, 4*s.*

" 1677.

" Paid the hearth money⁴² for school, due at Michaelmas 1678.

" The churchwardens rec^d all arrears from Goosnargh, amounting to 5*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

" Joh. France of Eccleston elected a 30 man 13 April 1678.

⁴¹ William Langton adds: "This I take to be the father of the vicar — he is called elsewhere old M^r Fisher — he officiated at Marton."

⁴² By an act of parliament passed in 14 Charles II. (1662) a duty of 2*s.* per annum was levied upon "every fire-hearth and stove within every house, edifice, chamber and lodging * * * to be paid at the feast of S^t Michael the Archangel and at the feast of the Annunciation, by even and equal portions." In the year following a second act was passed, which required every householder within ten days (after notice given in the church) to furnish "an account in writing under his hand of all hearths and stoves" in the house &c. in his occupation. The "hearth tax" was always an unpopular one, and the whole of the acts enforcing it were repealed in 1 William and Mary. Macaulay speaks strongly of the injustice of this impost, as "it pressed heavily on the poor and lightly on the rich." (*History of England.*)

" 1679.

"The bishop ordered a bone house to be built.⁴³

" 1680.

"Paid for a catalogue of recusants' names, to return to the justices of the peace for gathering of Sunday shillings.⁴⁴

" 1681.

"April 5. Ordered that the churchwardens should pay for every old py head that is bro' them and killed in the parish, 1*d.*; every young one, 1*s.* 4*d.*; 2*d.* per dozen for all sparrow heads. 10*s.* per annum allowed to Thomas Bishop the sexton for bringing rushes into the church.

"Paid for 92 pianets' heads, 7*s.* 8*d.*; and for 246 young pianets, 10*s.* 3*d.*

" 1683.

"Clarentia Stythe was buried in the church, pd. 5*s.*

"Spent upon the ringers upon the 9th Sep., being thanksgiving day for his majesty's deliverance from the fanatick plot, 2*s.* 6*d.*

"Paid for a whip to whip dogs out of church, 2*s.* 0½*d.*

" „ for magpies and sparrow heads, 10*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*

" 1685.

"The lady of sir John Platt and her child, then at Bradkirk, were buried at Kirkham church.⁴⁵

"2*s.* per annum for hearth money for the school.

"Paid to the ringers upon thanksgiving day for victory against the rebels in the West.⁴⁶

"Paid for writg 3 chapters in the great Bible, 3*s.*

" 1687.

"Paid to ringers for ringing on a thanksgiving day for the queen being with child, 3*s.*, and a proclamation for a form of prayer for the queen.

⁴³ This building was on the north side of the church, and remained in use until the old church was pulled down.

⁴⁴ Fines for non-attendance at the parish church.

⁴⁵ Buried on the 7th August 1684 "the lady Platt fr: Bradkirk. Christopher son of lady Platt." (*Church Register.*)

⁴⁶ Duke of Monmouth's rebellion.

"Spent when we went to justice Stanley when we went to dem^d 50s. for Tomlinson's wife buried in linen.⁴⁷

" 1690.

"Sep. 29. Directions for ch'wardens for dispatching of briefs :

Imp^r. They shall not give less to that the king } 5s.
shall send or allowed by the bishop }

If the loss be above 1000*l*. they shall give 6s. 8*d*.

If 5000*l*. loss they shall give 1*l*. 0s. 0*d*.

" 1*l*. 4s. 4*d*. paid for repair of Lund chapel.

" 1691.

"Paid ringers on the news of king's safe return and *livering* up of Limerick, 4s. 6*d*.

" 1692.

"Spent in treating my lord bishop when he preached and confirmed here, 1*l*. 10s. 4*d*."

1693.

Sir Thomas Clifton not paying his proportion of the rates, the churchwardens applied to the archbishop for "an order to enjoyne him to flag and repaire parish like the college church, as well as his owne chapel, and to break down the monument [see chapter VII.] he had without any authority put up in the church, towards the repayre thereof he will not suffer the glebe lands to contribute as they have done time out of mind."

"Cornelius Langton ch^{ch}warden, rec^d of him for lime, 1s."

1694.

A petition was sent to the dean and chapter of Christ church, Oxford, complaining that "the church is in worse repair of any in the county by reason of sir Tho^s Clifton withholding his payment &c., and petitioning that the tythe hay of Ribby with Wrea and Kellmermergh cum Bryning (lately alienated) may be restored, and that the tythe hay of Clifton may not be lost also * * *

⁴⁷ In accordance with the "act for burying in woollen" passed in 30 Charles II., which was intended "for the lessening the importation of linen, and the encouragement of the woollen and paper manufactures of this kingdom."

and that 10*l.* per annum and more may be added to the vicarage, or a better tenant may be thought upon, &c. R. CLEGG, vicar."

"Paid for sugar to refreshen the wine (at communion), 8*d.*

" „ for 66 quarts of wine at 1*s.* 8*d.*, 5*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

" 1698.

"Pd for mossing Lun chapel, 5*s.*

"Cuthbert Bradkirk a 30 man for Ribby.

" 1699.

"Spent on treating Mr Bushell⁴⁸ and those that attended him when he preached here, 16*s.*

" 1701.

"Mr Cuthbert Clifton of Salwick elected a 30 man.

" 1702.

"Recd 3*s.* 11½*d.* from Quakers in Frekleton.

"Pd about Quakers, 17*s.*

" 1706.

"Given to a melancholy clergyman, 1*s.*

"Pd Mr Loxam and Mr Langton for the pulpit cloth, quishions &c., 8*l.* 18*s.* 1¼*d.*

" 1707.

"Pd slaters for mendg after the great storm.

" „ for communion wine this year, 12*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*

" „ for bread, 2*s.* 4*d.*

" 1708.

"Mr Thomas Stanley chosen a 30 man for Ribby (in the room of Tho^s Benson).

" 1710.

"An order that no innkeeper shall be hired ch^rwarden.

"Ordered that 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* be given towards the repairs of Lund chapel (as a free gift).

"Pd M^{rs} Blandita Cutts, a distressed minister's widow, 2*s.* 6*d.*

" 1713.

"April 7. Edw^d Loxam elected one of the 30 men for Kirkham.

⁴⁸ Rev. William Bushell, B.A., curate of Goosnargh, 1692-1735. (See *History of Goosnargh*.)

"Spent on Mr Loxam⁴⁹ first time he preached here, 2s. 6d.

" 1720.

"Pd Mr Knot for books and proclamation for humiliation about the plague.

" 1724.

"The church gates built this year ; the stone came from Ribchester.

" 1725.

"Aug. 1. Spent on Mr Langton⁵⁰ (Zach) after preaching, 2s. 10d.

" 1726.

"Spent on Mr Leyland,⁵¹ old Mr Whitehead and yr Mr Whitehead,⁵² after preaching, 7s. 2d.

" 1727.

"2s. 6d. received for wine to Warton chapel.

" 1728.

"2d. a mile to be paid for hire of a hearse by every person that has occasion to use it to carry out dead persons out of the parish.

" 1729.

"Spent on Mr Mount and his company at his farewell sermon, 2s. 6d.

" 1730.

"John Berley chosen 30 man for Westby.

"Robert Chaddock „ „ „ Preese.

"Bought a hogshead of wine this year ; cost 12l.

" 1731.

"Sold off old wine this year to the amount of 1l. 17s. 6d., and pd 29l. 16s. 6d. for wine which was put into vicarage cellar.

⁴⁹ Rev. Robert Loxam vicar of Poulton. A branch of the family afterwards settled at Dowbridge, where their descendants still live.

⁵⁰ Son of Cornelius Langton. (See chapter VIII.)

⁵¹ Perhaps the rev. Thomas Leyland (son of John Leyland of Kellmergh) who was minister of Dean in the county of Sussex.

⁵² The rev. Robert Whitehead of Kirkham and his son the rev. William Whitehead ; the latter was curate of Hambleton and afterwards of Goosnargh. (See p. 62.)

" 1732.

"Pd for a dogwhipper, 4s.

" 1733.

"Ja^s Benson of Ribby chosen a 30 man in the room of Mr Stanley decd.

" 1733.

"Pd for dressing, watering, serving, carting, drink and toast spelks and meening [?] (this was for the school), 7s. 4d.

" 1734.

"A cellar ordered to be made under the vestry for setting the parish wine in."

Here ends this volume.

The next volume is the only one which still remains in the church chest, and it commences on the 24th June 1735, when the thirty-men were —

"Kirkham :

Robert Hankinson.

Henry Lawson.

Freckleton :

Rob^t Freckleton.

W^m Smalley.

Newton and Scales :

Rob^t Hornby.

Tho^s Walton.

Ribby and Wray :

John Benson.

Rob. Thompson.

Westby and Plumpton :

John Birley.

Rich^d Parker.

Weeton :

Rob. Chaddock esq.

Joh. Bell.

Clifton and Salwick :

John Cooper.

Joh. Hankinson.

Treales, Roseacre and Wharleys :

Edw^d Porter.

Rich^d Stythe.

Warton :

W^m Noblet.

W^m Dickson.

Bryning and Kellermersh :

W^m Cowban.

John Leyland.

Hambleton :

Ge^o Bickerstaffe.

Rich. Park.

Singletons :

Rich. Harrison.

Edw^d Bickerstaffe.

Grenall and Thistleton :	Eccleston and Larbrick :
W ^m Garlick.	John France.
John Thompson.	Edw ^d Stythe.

Medlar and Wesham :

Rich. Browning.

W^m Townshend.

" 1737.

" A double post letter from London cost 8*d*.

" 1740.

" June 15. Rev. John Threlfal first preached here, spent on him after preaching, 2*s*. 6*d*.

" 1741.

" Mr John Loxam proposed to erect a pew in the church ; it was withstood by the parish, and cost for meetings, expenses, opinions &c., 2*l*. 15*s*. 5*d*.

" Red port [wine] first used now, cost 5*s*. per gallon.

" 1742.

" 29 Aug. Spent on Mr Fishwick⁵³ after preaching, 1*s*. 4*d*.

" 1746.

" 28 March. Paid for hiding registers, vestments, plate &c. at the rebels coming, 2*s*. 6*d*. ; same day paid for ringing when the duke of Cumberland came to Preston, and when he retook Carlisle, 6*s*.

" 1749.

" 14 April. Paid old Mr Rudhall for coming from Gloucester to take notes of the bells when the 2nd was recast, 3*l*. 3*s*. 0*d*.

" 1760.

" 4 Nov. Spent with the sheriff when he proclaimed his majesty king George III., 1*l*. 1*s*. 0*d*.

" 1763.

" Mr Thomas Langton is made a 30 man for Kirkham in the room of his father deceased.

⁵³ The rev. James Fishwick, incumbent of Padiham, the son of James fishwick of Bulsnape hall, Goosnargh, justice of the peace for the county of Lancaster. (See *History of Goosnargh*.)

" 1764.

" Paid for 12 dozen sparrows, 14*d.* ; an orchard⁵⁴ * * *

" 1768.

" 13 Dec. Spent by the parish when Burgoyne and Hoghton were elected members for Preston.⁵⁵

" 1771.

" Paid for sequestering the church living, 1*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.*

" 1773.

" Dec. 15. Pd Mr Smalley for a new umbrella,⁵⁶ 2*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

" 1776.

" Paid 10*s.* to the sexton for rushing the church.⁵⁷

" 1778.

" Memorandum.

On Sunday the 14 Sep. 1777, att 11 o'clock in the forenoon, in time of Divine service, immediately after the Gospel, which concludes with these words: 'And there came a great fear on all, and they glorified God, saying that a great prophet is come up among us, and that God hath visited his people; and this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judæa, and throughout all the region round about.' Then was a shock of an earthquake continued about 1 minute, which came on as of a great rain before it fall.⁵⁸ After which a second noise as of a coach at a distance, which encreased until as loud as thunder, the earth still trembling. The church being very old, the congregation thought themselves safest to be out of it; they all (fearing this visitation of God might bury them in its ruins) attempted to get out at once, with shrieks and fearful aspects.

⁵⁴ A hedgehog.

⁵⁵ Colonel John Burgoyne (afterwards general) and sir Henry Hoghton bart. represented Preston together in five parliaments.

⁵⁶ A parish umbrella was commonly used about this period. The churchwardens of Sculcoates, Hull, paid 1*l.* 3*s.* for one in 1777. Hone's *Table-Book* contains an account of one that opened to a diameter of five feet. (See *Notes and Queries*, 4th series, vol. viii.)

⁵⁷ Up to 1781 rushes were laid in the church yearly.

⁵⁸ The writer probably alludes to the darkness.

" 1778.

"Fox's new Book of Martyrs bought, cost 1*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*

" 1786.

"Will. Cunt¹ Shawe of Singleton lodge appointed a 30 man for Singleton.⁵⁹

" 1794.

"June 24. It was ordered that the vestry men should have a dinner at one meeting of the year at the expense of the parish, not to exceed 2*s.* 6*d.* per head.

" 1797.

"Apr. 18. Ordered that the curates of Lund, Warton, Ribby and Singleton shall not exceed 2 qts. of wine each day they administer the sacrament, until further orders.

" 1800.

"12 June. Memorandum. Oat meal sold this day at Preston market at 6 *gs.* [guineas] per load, and wheat at 3*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* per windle,⁶⁰ and all other food very dear."

1799 and 1800.

"The old tithe barn of the parish, which formed the west barrier of the churchyard, having been blown down, considerable expenses occur in levelling the churchyard."

LIST OF THIRTY-MEN, 1808.

Kirkham :	Thomas Birley,	elected 1781
	William Langton,	" 1807
Clifton with Salwick :	Tho ^s Hall,	" 1789
	William Whalley,	" 1806
Newton :	Jos. Hornby,	" 1777
	Rev. Cha ^s Buck,	" 1790
Freckleton :	John Mayer,	" 1801
	Tho ^s Hornby,	" 1806

⁵⁹ Mr. Cunliffe Shaw was the lord of the manor of Singleton.

⁶⁰ A *windle*, a measure of quantity.

Warton :	Peter Brown,	„	1786
	John Mercer,	„	1795
Bryning with Kellmergh :	James Browne,	„	1767
	Richard Bradkirk,	„	1781
Ribby with Wray :	Cuthbert Nickson,	„	1786
	John Birley,	„	1793
Westby with Plumpton :	John Salthouse,	„	1775
	William Fisher,	„	1791
Weeton with Preese :	Thos Jolly,	„	1785
	Henry Jolly,	„	1808
Gt. and Little Singleton :	Richard Harrison,	„	1798
	William Hornby,	„	1804
Eccleston with Larbrick :	John France,	„	1775
	Richard Dickson,	„	1791
Greenall with Thistleton :	John Thompson,	„	1797
	Rich. Miller,	„	1806
Medlar with Wesham :	Cuthbert Crookell,	„	1786
	Rob. Moon,	„	1802
Treales, Roseacre and Wharleys :	William Shawe,	„	1793
	William Swarbreck,	„	1794
Hambleton :	John Pool,	„	1776
	Rob. Rowe,	„	1776
“ 1806.			

“Nov. 27. Received from the lords or owners of Mowbreck demesne the sum of ten pounds, as an acknowledgment for fines due to the rev. Humphrey Shuttleworth vicar of Kirkham on the demise of four late lords or owners, in lieu of small tythes on that demesne, the same sum being likewise payable from the said lords or owners at the decease of any vicar of Kirkham.”
(See p. 41.)

The doings of the thirty-men continue to be regularly recorded until 1845, when, as an institution, it ceased to exist, and the parish affairs have since been conducted in the ordinary manner.

CHAPTER VI.

THE CHURCHWARDENS AND THE
PARISH REGISTERS.

NO complete list of the churchwardens of Kirkham has been preserved, but for many years in the seventeenth century their signatures are attached to the registers, and in several instances their names are given in the records of the thirty-men.

A.D.

1569	William Plumpton.	Henry Thompson.
	James Newsham.	Thomas Cardwell.
1570	James Porter.	Nich. Fayre.
	John ———	Edm ^d Hankinson.
1589	John Sharples gent.	* * *
1605	Will. Weeton of Plumpton.	Robert Edwards of Scales.
	Richard Coway of Grenall.	John Kirkham of Larbrick.
1608	John Nickson of Ribbie.	* * *
1611	John Hall of Rosaker.	* * *
1612	Thomas Eccleston of Plumpton.	Richard Clitherall of Clifton.
	Rich. Faile of Maine.	* * *
1615	* * *	—— Whitehead of Clifton.
1616	Gregory Frekleton.	James Clitherall.
	Rich. Elston.	* * *
1618	Tho ^s Robinson of Westbie.	Thomas Stith of Wharles the younger.
	Thomas Riley of Clifton.	James Parker of Kirkhame.

1619 ¹	W ^m Tomason.	* * *
1620	Ric. Eccleston.	Jo. Rowlinsonn.
	Tho. Eccleston.	Tho. Hankinsonn.
1621	— Thistleton.	Rob. Nicksonn.
	James Clitherall.	Jo. ffearneseide.
1622	Tho. Porter.	Geo. Cowboune.
	Jo. Smith.	Geo. Nicksonn.
1623	James Hodgson.	* * *
	James Riley.	William Duddell.
1624	Thomas Robinson.	Thomas Grimbaldeston.
	Richard Clarkson.	Geo. Kirkham.
1625	John Hall.	Tho. Clifton.
	Rob. Barton.	James Benson.
1626	Ric. Ekleston.	W ^m Thompson.
	W ^m Browne.	George Cowbon.
1627	Tho ^s Eccleston.	Tho. Reyley.
	Tho. Dobsonne.	Will ^m Wilkinson.
1628	John Rawlinsonn.	William Porter.
	Tho. Eccleston.	W ^m Wilkinson.
1629	John Millner.	William Hall.
	Thomas Cardwell.	Richard Charnock of Wharles.
1630	Ric. Sowerbutts.	W ^m Taylor.
	Ja. —	W ^m Clarkson.
1632	Richard Riley.	William Taylor.
	William Hall.	John Williamson.
1633	Thomas Cardwell.	Will ^m Hornbie.
	* * *	Will ^m Hall.
1634	Henry Coulborn.	Rob. Hankinson.
	John Johnson.	Thomas faire.
1635	James Grennall.	Rodger Hadocke.
	William Thompson.	William Hall.

¹ 1608 to 1619 from the manuscript history of the "two quyres" see p. 39.

1637	William Hall.	John Grimmason.
	James Gradwell.	James Newsham.
1638	James Clythral.	Robert Whitehead.
	Roger Threlfall.	Tho ^s Faire.
1639	Roger Threlfall. ²	* * *
	* * *	* * *
1647	Thomas Bennet of Westby.	Thomas Hankinson of Salwick.
	W ^m Grenall of Treales.	John Hanson of Singleton.
1693	Cornelius Langton.	* * *
	* * *	* * *

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

The registers of Kirkham commence at a very early date, but the first portion of them are not the original entries, but copies taken by Thomas Robinson of Westby, as appears by the following memorandum :

“A true and p^rfect register of al y^e names of such persons as have been bapt^d, buried and married at y^e parish church of Kirkham, since y^e year of our Lord God 1540, in the xxxj. year of y^e rayne of kyng Henry y^e VIII. until this p^rsent year of o^r Lord God 1628, and of y^e xvth of James, taken out of antient copies at y^e commandement of publick³ authorite in y^e hand of M^r Arthur Greenacres, master of arts, being then vicar of Kirkham, and Thomas Riley of Clifton, Thomas Stith of Wharles the younger, James Parker of Kirkham and Thomas Robinson of Westbie, being churchwardens the same year, and copied out by the aforesaid Thomas Robinson.”

The early registers afford very little information, as prior to

² The vicar objected to his election, but “the chancelor approved his election, and ordered M^r Armistead the commissary to take his oath.” (*Thirty-men's Records*.)

³ The order made in 1603 is here alluded to. In that year the thirty-men resolved “that all the old register books sho^d be put into the new register book in parchment which have been since the beginning of our late queen Elizabeth her reign.”

the seventeenth century little is recorded beyond the mere name and date. They have, however, been carefully preserved, and to the genealogist are of special interest.

CHRISTENINGS.⁴

“Mar. anno 1539.

“Thom. Sharock fillius Withmo, xj.

“Henr' Cowbron fillius Richard', xij.

“Maii 1540.

“Richard Cardwell fillius Withmi, * * *

“Jun.

“Margaret Stith fillia Thome, xij.

“Margaret Singleton fillia Georg', xxx.

“September.

“Robt Butler fillius Richard', j.

“Octob'.

“Richard Hardman fillius Thome, xj.

“Withm Thorneton fillius Withmi, xij.

“Decemb'

“Thomas Skillicorne fillius Nicoli, xxj.

“February.

“Thomas Threlfall fillius Withmi, xxviiij.

“March.

“Margret Cowbaine fillia Richardi, xx.

“Will. Haryson fillius Richardi, xx.

“Aprill anno 1541.

“Jonie freckleton fillia Thome, xx.

“Mauld freckleton fillia Thome, * * *

“Junius.

“Elizabeth Thystleton fillia Thome, xxij.

“August.

“Thom. Eccleston fillius Thome, ij.

⁴ No attempt is made to correct the obvious errors of the copyist. The original registers were no doubt in Latin.

- "Septembris.
 "Thomas Swarbrick fillius Willi, xxvj.
 "Novemb⁹
 "Richard Smith fillius Janit, xv.
 "Decemb⁹
 "James ffrance fillius Ricardo, xxvij.
 "Januar' anno 1541.
 "Wittm Clifton fillius Thome, v.
 "Richard Whitehead fillius Jhon, v.
 "ffebruary.
 "Rob^t Bradkirk⁵ fillius Laurence, ij.
 "1542.
 "May.
 "Henry Southworth fillius Thome, v.
 "Hugh Houghton fillius Georg', xxx.
 "Septemb'.
 "James Crok fillius Richard', viij.
 "Decemb'.
 "Thom. Cowbron fillius Laurence.
 "January.
 "Henry Kirkeham fillius Georgi, viij.
 "March.
 "Elizabeth Parker fillia Thome, v.
 "Maai 1543.
 "Jhon Dilworth fillius Edward', xij.
 "Katherine Threlfall fillia Richard', xiiij.
 "1544.
 "June.
 "Alic Franc fillia Richard, xxiiij.
 "March.
 "Richard Wilding fillius Jhon, xiiij.
 "Richard Parker fillius Hugh, viij.

⁵ The Bradkirk entries are very numerous. Thirty-four baptisms of this family occur between 1541 and 1600.

- “ 1545.
“ June.
“ Cuthbert Singleton fillius Georg., xvij.
“ July.
“ Edmund Parker fillius Withm, xxij.
“ 1547.
“ June.
“ Withmo Eccleston fillius Thome, xxij.
“ August.
“ Elin Westbie fillia Thome, xvj.
“ Margret Sharples fillia Henre, xxx.
“ 1551.
“ September.
“ Thomas ffranc fillius Richard, xj.
“ 1552.
“ August.
“ Jhon Sowerbutts fillius James, xxviiij.⁶
“ September anno 1558.
“ Richard Bredkirk fillius Jhon, xij.
“ Novemb’.
“ James Sharples fillius Jhon, xj.
“ Thomas Clifton fillius Cuthbard, xij.
“ May.
“ Nicolus Skillicorne fillius Withm, vij.
“ Novembr 1562.
“ Jhon Grimbaston fillius Withm, xviiij.
“ Decemb.
“ Richard Waring fillius Thome, xiiij.
“ ffebruary 1564.
“ Mathew Southward fillius Jhon, xix.
“ January 1567.
“ Edward Whitehead fillius Richard, viij.

⁶ No entries for part of 1555-56 and 1557.

- " August 1569.
 " Withm Westby fillius Jhon.' armiger, xx.
 " Decemb' 1569.
 " Rob^t Whitehead fillius James, xij.
 " May 1571.
 " Isabell Burley fillia Withm,⁷ v.
 " June 1572.
 " B⁸ Ellen Newell fillia Thoma & Marger' Diconson, xxij.
 " 1574.
 " June.
 " William Bredkirk fillius James.
 " March 1586.
 " Joh. Sharples fillius James, xx.
 " Novemb' 1587.
 " Robert Whitehead fillius Withm, x.
 " Novemb' 1592.
 " Katherine Webster fillius Lauren^c, xxvi.
 " March 1598.
 " Henry Cowbourne filius Peter, iij.

BURIALS.

- " Anno 1540.
 " January.
 " Joh. Sharples fillius James, xxij.
 " October 1541.
 " Tho^s Smith, vicar, xxij.
 " Novemb^r.
 " Jenet Newsome ux⁹ Christofer, x.
 " Hen. Butler, xij.
 " Aprell 1541.
 " Rob^t Whitehead.

⁷ Probably some relative of Thomas Birley, whose wife Isabel was the benefactress of the Free school. (See chapter VIII.)

⁸ Illegitimate children are marked "B."

- “Novemb. 1545.
“Wifm dudell.
“March 1548.
“James Bradkirke, xxx.
“Septemb’ 1549.
“Elizabeth Parker uxor Thome, j.
“January 1553.
“George Cowbron, viij.
“April 1555.
“Wifm Bamber, xij.
“September 1556.
“Dorothie Hesketh uxor George, xij.
“October.
“Thom’ Bryning, xxvij.
“February 1560.
“Milles Sharples, viij.
“January 1561.
“Henry Gillow, xij.
“August.
“Joh. Hull fillius W^m, xvj.
“Decemb’ 1562.
“Richard Horneby, ij.
“December 1564.
“Betrix Butler, xx.
“May 1565.
“Nicolus Cowbron, xxvij.
“February 1565-66.
“George Houghton fillius Arthur, xxij.
“March 1566-67.
“Roger Lailand.
“March 1568.
“Giles Sharples.
“June 1571.
“George Veal, xix.

- “April 1573.
“Jenet Threlfall uxor Edmund, xxvij.
“August 1576.
“Elin Westby fillia Thome, vij.
“September 1577.
“W^m Beconsall, xij.
“December 1577.
“Anne Bredkirk uxor Lawren^c, xvij.
“October.
“Rob^t Nickson de Westby, xxvij.
“November.
“Henry Westby, ij.
“1578.
“April.
“Ellen Sharples uxor James de Wray, xij.
“Anne Webster uxor Laurence, xxvij.
“November.
“Henry Sharples de Wray, vj.
“May 1585.
“John Birley, x.
“February 1585.
“John ffranc fillius Rob^t, xvj.
“July.
“James Smith vicar de Kirkham, xj.
“September 1597.
“James Sharples vicar of Kirkham, xxj.
“Aprill.
“Brian Rigges curat at Kirkham, iijj.
“January.
“Sir George Cowbron of freckleton.
“July 1598.
“Mr Nicholas Helme vicar of Kirkham, xvj.
“October 1601.
“W^m Skillicorne esq.”

The earliest register of marriages is entitled :

“A trew regist^r of all y^e wedings which have beene acted or done at y^e p^h church of Kirkham, from y^e xxxii. yeare of the reyne of king Henry the VIIIth, which was anno 1539, untill this y^e year 1617, writen [by] Thomas Robinson of Westby, churchwarden that year.”

“March 1539.

“Edmund Henkinson et M^gret Bushell, vij.

“Sep^t.

“Thomas Ecton & Anne Bredkirk, viij.

“August 1541.

“Jhon Robinson & Elln Threlfall, vj.

“June 1542.

“W^m Kirkham & Isabel Carter, x.

“July 1546.

“Jhon Harison & Margret Salthouse, viij.

“October 1547.

“Christopher Hull & Margret hurison widow, vj.

“April 1553.

“George Horneby & Margret Eccleston, x.

“Sep. 1559.

“Jhon Bamb^r de Lytham & Joan Dobson, xx.

“June 1560.

“Henry Clifton & Ellen Bradkirk wid.

“April 1561.

“Jhon Skillicorne & Alis Wodd, xx.

“January 1561.

“W^m Parker & Margret Shaw, xxij.

“Sep. 1567.

“W^m Singleton de Broughton & Ellen Houghton.

“Aug. 1568.

“James ffranc & Margery Tomlinson, xxix.

“December.

“Richard Sharples & Ellen Cowbron vidua, iij.

"January.

"Jhon Swarbreck & Joan Kirkham, ix.

"July 1569.

"Thom. Clifton & Anne Bredkirk, iij.

"September.

"James Shawe & Eliz. Byrome, xij.

"James Sharples & Jone Wilkinge, xxx.

"December 1572.

"Thom. freckleton & M'gret Sharples, vj.

"July 1574-75.

"Laur' Bredkirk & Jenet Hursted, xvj.

"May 1575.

"Rob' Bradkirk & Eliz. Plesington vidua, vj.

"January 1577.

"Nicholas Newsome & Eliz. Browne, xxvj.

"April 1587.

"Will. Bradkirk & Annes Sauter, xv.

"May 1589.

"Henry Bradkirk & Marg' Wodkok, xx.

"August 1593.

"W^m Bradkirk & Anne Hankinson, xvj.

"ffeb^r 1605.

"Jhon Harison & ffranc Browne, xxijj.

"January 1609.

"W^m Clitherall & Annes Duddull, xxj.

"Nov. 1610.

"Henry Westby & Eliz. Threlfall, ix.

"April 1616.

"M^r Arthur Grennaces & Issabell Tomlinson, xxj.

"May 1617.

"Cuthbert Bradkirk & Eliz. Browne, j."

The old register ends here.

"Sept' 1619.

"John Kaye et Janie ffrancie, xxx.

“Maie 1620.

“James Hull de Kirkham et Alicia Hall, xvij.

“Nov.

“George Greene et Jenet Hall de Maynes, xxx.”

The registers contain many examples of compliance with the act passed by Cromwell requiring marriages to be solemnized before a justice of the peace. In many cases the ceremony was performed in the presence of the mayor of Preston.

“Oct. 1654.

“John Lewtie and Elizabeth Banks published 3 severall lord's days, and married before the maior of preston the 12th.

“November 1654.

“Laurence Ryley and Elizabeth Griffin published three lords daies before y^e 24th.⁹

“ffbruary 1654-55.

“Willm Hall of Treales and Elizabeth Diconson published three lords daies, and married before M^r Richard Sumner¹⁰ the maior of Preston the 20th day of ffbruary.

“Richard Gorner of Rosaker and Ann Blackburn of the p^rish of S^t Michaels published three severall market daies at the markett cross of Kirkham before the 2nd of October, and married before M^r Willm Patten maier of Preston the 15th Nov. 1655.

“These are to certify all whom it may concern that Christopher Smith and Alis Whitehead came this day before me, one of the justices of peace for the county of Lancaster, whose name is subscribed, and were married accordinge to the act of parliament of the 24th August 1653 in that case provided, in the presence of Will. Eccleston, Richard Whitehead, Henry Whithead; as witness my hand, at Preston, the 9th July 1656.

WILLM PATTEN, maior.”

⁹ It is presumed that on the 24th they were married.

¹⁰ Richard Sumpner was mayor of Preston this year.

CHAPTER VII.

THE MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS IN THE
CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD
OF KIRKHAM.

THE monumental inscriptions in the parish church of Kirkham are not either very ancient or very numerous. The oldest is on the stone which covers the grave of vicar Clegg, and is let into the floor of the vestry :

R^d: Clegg came : V:M. : J666.
 Began poo^s loaves : E : J670.
 Ux^r Jennet nup^t F : j672
 Mary n^t 9^r : j673 ; nup^t, FEB : 96
 Doro: n^t. M. j675 : ob. j677
 Abraham . n^t J : j677 : ob j677
 Doro: n^t : S : j678
 Henerey n^t : J : j680 ob j683
 Eliz: n^t : M : j685_nup^t Fe^b 1713
 R^d_Clegg,V^r. ob j720 Æt 85
 W: Jennet. ob: j7... Æt ... ¹

Upon this stone are the arms of the family :



¹ These blanks were left on the stone and have never been filled up. The V:M, in the first line probably means *made vicar* in the year named.

A tablet on the south wall :

In memory of Thomas Clifton, son of sir Thomas Clifton of Lytham in the county of Lancaster kn^t and bar^t and Bridget Hussey his second wife, daughter of sir Edward Hussey of Hunnington in the county of Lincoln of like quality, who departed this life Nov. 12, 1688, aged 20 years, and lies buried near this place.

A virgin masculine,
Whom sacred lore did much refine.
In foreign lands assiduous to advance
And free his soul from ignorance.
To parents obedient, kind and moderate,
All other virtues he did celebrate.
Early embracing our dear Saviour's yoke
Death he defeated in its sharpest stroke.
Reader, may thou like him be most sincere,
Watchfull to steer thy course by holy fear,
Which will conduct thee to that happy rest,
Glorious, immortal and for ever blest.

In 1693 sir Thomas Clifton was ordered by the thirty-men to pull down a monument which he had put up in the church. This is probably what is alluded to.

On a flag in the floor of the chancel :

In memoriam
venerabilis viri
pietate juxta ac eruditione
celeberrimi Caroli Buck, A.M.
hujusce ecclesiæ vicarii
Qui per septem et viginti
annos fideliter et strenuè
hoc muneri functus est
sacrosancto.
Obiit 16 Car. Apr. anno salutis
1771. Ætatis suæ 57.

On the floor of the chancel :

Here lyeth interred the body of the rev. Humphrey Shuttleworth, late vicar of Kirkham. He departed this life on the 14 August 1812. Aged 76 years.

On the floor of the middle aisle is a mutilated inscription, of which all that can be deciphered is :

.... dy of
 .. wife
 Hanki[nson] ...
 ivly
 Mary the wife of
 Thomas Hankson
 of Kirk..m....
 .. rd. Octo

On the south a tablet contains :

Sacred to the memory of
 The reverend John Threlfall, A.B.,
 who died December XIII. M.D.CCCI.

Aged LXXXIV. years.
 He was fifty-six years head master of
 Kirkham school.

Also to the memory of
 Sarah his wife,
 who died October XI. MDCCXCI. aged LXXI.
 This silent marble is erected as a small token
 of gratitude and affection.

A tablet on the south wall :

Near this place are deposited the mortal remains of Richard Bradkirk esq^{re} of Bryning hall in this county, who died unmarried on the 6 day of April 1813, in the 60 year of his age.

His two surviving sisters, Mary Bradkirk and Elizabeth Langton relict of John Langton eldest son of Thomas

Langton esq. of Kirkham, dedicate this monument of their affectionate regard to the memory of a beloved brother.

On the south wall is a tablet recording :

In memory of
Henry Rishton Buck, A.B.,
lieutenant 33 regiment, who fell in battle
at Waterloo, June 18, 1815.

Æ. 27.

Also of James Buck, lieutenant 21
light dragoons, who died Jan. 7, 1815.

Æ. 19.

Another is erected

To the memory
of
The rev. Phipps Gerard Slatter, A.M.,
head master of the Free school
and
curate of Kirkham. He died 26 March
1815. Aged 25 years.

In the churchyard are very few old monuments, and of those remaining the inscriptions have, in most cases, been nearly obliterated. The earliest date is found on a flat stone, which has the following inscription :

Here lyeth the bodyes
of Jennet the wife of John
Johnson bvried September
the 9. 1653.

John Johnson bvried
October the 1
1657.

George Johnson buried September
17. 1669.
All of Wesham.

Here lyeth the bodies of
Richard Smith of Kirkham
who departed this life
March the 13th anno
1725.

On a stone not more than twelve inches wide is inscribed :

Heare
lieth
the body
of Ann
wife of
John Jen:
kinson of
Priests
deceased
December
the 20th
1680.

The resting place of the founder of Wrea school is marked by a stone bearing the following inscription :

Here lyeth
the body
of James
Thistleton
of Wraa
who was
interred:
February
the 27, 1693.

At the foot of the inscription is a shield, which at one time contained some heraldic device, but nothing can now be made out beyond the outline of the shield.

On the south side of the church is a flat stone, on the top of which are a skull and cross bones, with the motto : "In tenerbris gloriæ periodus." The inscription is as follows :

Reliquiæ Johannis Grimbalston :
 nuper de Treales
 Sonum tubæ manentes,
 Sub hoc marmore
 reconditæ
 [27] dies Novembris
 anno salutis Christianæ
 1725. Ætatis suæ 78.

The charitable bequest of William Harrison (see chapter IX.) is thus recorded on the tombstone which covers his grave :

William Harrison of Kirkham gent., interred January 12, 1767, aged 60, left an ample fortune to poor relations, and 140*l.* to be vested in land, the yearly income to be distributed in pious books to the poor of Kirkham, Little Eccleston and Larbrick : may the trustees dispense with integrity and effect the sacred dole.

The rev. Robert Loxham, the vicar of Poulton is interred here :

Hic juxta paternos cineres
 suos recordi jussit Robertus Loxham, A.M.,
 ecclesiæ Poultoniensis vicarius qui die Junii 13
 A.D. 1770.

Ætat. 80 decessit.
 Concionator erat laudabilis et ovium
 quos Christus ei commendasset
 Custos assiduus fidusque.

Many of the Langton family were buried here, and amongst the numerous inscriptions to their memory we note the following :

Hic pace requiescant reliquiæ Johannis Langton de Kirkham, qui obiit Junii 21, 1762. Æt. 71.

H.S.E. Quod mortale fuit Johannis Langton Thomæ et Janæ Langton uxoris suæ filii natū maximi qui, diem obiit supremum Junii kall. A.D. 1807, ætatis suæ 51.

M.S. Thomæ Langton armigeri ex agro Kirkhamiensi qui in variis orbis terrarum partibus summâ fide et constantiâ per multos annos stipendium meruit. 12 Aug. 1781 natus — apud Herefordiam vitâ eheu ! abreptus 11 Nov. 1826.

M.Q.S. Elizabethæ Johannis Langton viduæ vixit cara suis flebilis occidit 3 Julii A.D. 1835. Ætatis suæ 77.

On a raised tombstone is :

Here lies the body of Edward King esq., fourth son of the very rev. James King, D.D., dean of Raphoe, formerly bencher of the honourable society of Gray's inn, and for above twenty years vice-chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster. Reader, inquire no more, but go and do thy duty.²

On a gravestone :

In memory of Ellen wife of James Noblett of Ribby, died 1st January 1804, aged 84 years.

“She desired us in an humble voice, not to be angry —

Not to be angry.

Mortals, neither swear nor lie,

But do as you would be done by.”

To the memory of the rev. Charles Buck, curate of Lund (see p. 58), is the following :

The rev. Charles Buck of Kirkham,

A.M., died 4 Jan. 1808.

Aged 54.³

² Mr. King was brother of Walker King bishop of Rochester, and of captain James King who was associated with captain Cook in his voyages.

³ The same stone records the death of his two sons. (See p. 131.)

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE origin of this ancient school is not known, but it was in existence in 1551, when Thomas Clifton of Westby esq. left "towards the grammer scole xx^s."¹ And on the 19th September 1585 it was agreed at a meeting of the thirty-men "that 40/s taken out of the clerk's wages should be paid to the schoolmaster, and that 4 of the 30 men, in the name of the rest, take possession of the *school house* in right of the whole parish, to be kept in repair by it and used as a school house." At this same meeting it was decided to "place Richard Wilkins *now* schoolmaster" for a year or more as the teacher. In 1588 the parish repaired the schoolhouse, and on the 29th May 1589 the thirty-men "agreed that the 10/s a year p^d by Goosnargh to the church sh^d in future be paid to the schoolmaster, and for every burial (except one dying in childbed) he sh^d have such sum as was agreed by the 30 men, and also such sum as hath heretofore been paid for the holy bread loaf,² which is of every

¹ *Lanc. Wills*, vol. iii, p. 76. (Chetham soc., vol. liv.)

² Those who have attended service on Sunday at the church of St. Roch, Paris, will have noticed that the holy bread is carried round in baskets, and offered to all present. Formerly all who attended mass were obliged to receive the holy communion, but when this law was abolished the above custom came into vogue, and is still retained in many continental Roman catholic churches. Holy bread money was the money which in the first book of Edward VI. was ordered to be paid in recompense of such costs and charges (for bread and wine) as the parishioners of every parish shall offer every Sunday at the time of the offertory, for the just value and price of the holy loaf. (See *Notes and Queries*, first series, vols. ix, x, *passim*.)

house 3*d.* every Sunday successively towards repairs of the school house and help of his wages.”³

In the same year 4*s.* 1*d.* was paid for thatching the school-house, and in 1610 “a good deal of money” was expended in thatching and repairs, and at the same time desks and forms were purchased.

In 1836 there was in the possession of Thomas Martin of Lincoln’s inn esq. a manuscript history of the school from 1621 to 1663.⁴ This (the original manuscript) is probably now irrevocably lost, but fortunately, whilst it was in the hands of the rev. Charles Buck, in or about 1798, a copy of it was taken by William Langton,⁵ and from this copy we quote the following passages :

“Isabell Birely, wife of Thomas Birley, born in Kirkham, daughter of John Coulbron,⁶ an alehouse keeper all her life, and through that imployment attayned to a good personall estait above most in that towne of that calling, being moved with a naturall compassion to pore children shee saw often in that towne, was hard say dyvers tymes she would doe something for their good, and in the yeare 1621, having gotten a good stock of money in her hands, was moved to put her sayings into action.

“The 30 men of the parish being assembled at the church, she, with 30*l.* in her aporon, came to them, telling them she had brought that money to give it towards the erecting of a free schole for pore children to be taught gratis * * * wishing them to take it and consider of it. They [the thirty-men] were the men especially trusted by the parish for the common benefits of the church, and therefore were the most like persons to move their severall townships to contribute every one something * * * and not doubting but their good examples in their contributions

³ In 1592, it was agreed by the 30 men that the holy bread money should again be paid to the vicar.

⁴ Baines’s *Hist. Lanc.*

⁵ Now in possession of his descendant William Langton of Manchester.

⁶ Born 25th March 1568. (*Par. Reg.*)

would be a strong motive to excite others. This was thankfully accepted, and wrought so with them that every one was forward to promote it, especially M^r Jn^o Parker of Bredkirk, an eminent man in the parish and one of that companie, being at that tyme one of the earl of Derby's gentlemen and somewhat alied to the said Isabell ; he forwarded it very much, sparing neither his paynes of his bodie nor his purse ; for that end he traveled all the parish over to every particular towne and house, earnestly persuading them to contribuit. * * * Sir Cuthbert Clifton gave 20*l.*, maister Westby of Moulbreck 10*l.*, M^r Parker 5*l.*, M^r Langtree of Swarbreck 5*l.*, M^r Hesketh of Maines 40*s.*, M^r Greenaker vicar of Kirkham 4*l.* * * *

The several townships subscribed a total of 170*l.* 14*s.*, with which either a new school was built or the old one altered.

The next step was to select a schoolmaster, and "so it was at that instant a young man, an honest able scholer of good gifts and parts, having a lingering sickness upon him, was come over to Kirkham to M^r William Armesteed⁷ his cozen for change of aire, his name being Thomas Armesteed, was moved by some of the towne whether he would accept to be schole master if suit were made to the 30 men to elect him, we, in regard to the weakness of his bodie then yealded to the motion, otherwise he was a man well qualified for the ministry and a moving preacher."

When the thirty-men met they had to choose between Thomas Armesteed and Mr. Sokell, but through the influence of Isabell Birley the former was elected, "and he had many scholars resorted unto him, and he ordered them very well * * * he stayed a number of years," and when he left, about the year 1628, Mr. Sokell succeeded him.

Before this time the school had been entirely managed by the thirty-men, but the "gentlemen such as were Romanists considering * * * that they had given the greatest part of the money

⁷ Curate of Kirkham.

towards erecting the schole," thought that "it was not for their reputation altogether to leave the care of it to others and they to have no hand in it. * * * Therefore they took upon them to have a hand about it, and upon their doing so the 30 men being tenants most of them to some of them or dependant someway upon them, left it to them; * * * only Mr Parker he joined in with them."

It appears that Mr. Sokell was a Romanist and was strongly opposed by Isabell Birley and her friends, who wanted to secure the election of a Mr. Dugdall, and, in consequence of the action taken by the managers of the school in July 1628, an appeal was made to the bishop, and by a "petition" he was informed "what [Isabell Birley] had voluntarily given * * * and what the towne of Kirkham had done * * * and how the gentlemen of the parish, being recusants al saving Mr Parker, had intruded themselves to order all things" about the school. "They therefore desired his lordship to give them his order how for the future election of feofees for the schole should be maid, which he accordingly did as follows :

"Apud Wigan 31 July 1628.

"At what day and place divers of the town and parish of Kirkham appeared about the ordering of a schole master thereof for the tyme to come. At their request it is therefor ordered that the whole parish, or so many as shall appear at some day prefixed, after public notice given the Sunday before, shall elect six or nine lawful and honest men feofees for that purpose, whereof a third part to be chosen by the towne of Kirkham and the two other parts by the parishioners generally, of which feofees Isabell Wilding's husband⁸ and her heirs, because she gave 30*l*. to the schole maister, shall be one.

JOHANNES CESTRENSIS. EDWD BUSSELL."

⁸ Isabell Birley married for her second husband John Wilding. Tradition says that the inn kept by her stood in the north-west corner of the square occupied by the town hall, and that it had the sign of "the eagle and child." The place is now called Eagle court.

In accordance with this order, public notice was given in the church of a meeting to be held in "the parlour of Mr Brown the curat," when there attended sir Cuthbert Clifton knt., Mr Thomas Westby, Mr Tho^s Hesketh, Mr Langtree and Mr John Parker, "but of the parishioners not one man, saving Richard Harrison of Frickleton, and of Kirkham John Wilding, and then and there the gentlemen elected themselves feoffees as also they elected Mr Edward Fleetwood the vicar."⁹

In 1634 John Wilding died, and "Isabell Wilding, growing ould, infirm and sickly," on the 19th December 1636 went to the feoffees, "her purpose being to have bestowed 30*l.* more towards the school if she had found them favourable to her in something she willed of them (what it was she never spook as I hard), whereas Mr Clifton gave her harsh words, and such as sent her home with much discontent and passion." She died on the 6th February 1637,¹⁰ and so, the manuscript says, "left the 30*l.* by will to buy land with, and the yearly rent to be divided to the poor of the town and parish of Kirkham."

About 1536, a vacancy in the head mastership existing, George Robinson son of Thomas Robinson of Westby applied for it. He was then a student at Oxford, but came "down into the country wanting health and in a weak condition." Mainly it appears by the influence of "Mr Edward Bradley" of Brynning, then a feoffee, Mr. Hugh Whaley of Preston was elected, and as he was thought to be a recusant Mr. Fleetwood the vicar locked the door of the school and refused to let him be put into possession. "Mr Westby, a wise subtel gentleman," however, consulted the judges at Lancaster, and obtained an order whereby Mr. Whaley got possession, whereupon the vicar appealed to the bishop, pleading his (Whaley's) unfitness "to be scholemaister in such a place, so infested with poperie as it was, and he a man knowne to be affected that way * * * and more like to corrupt

⁹ Many pages of the MS. are now filled with a long wordy account of the election of masters. (See *post.*)

¹⁰ Buried in the church. (See p. 98.)

the children * * * with popish principles than give them any information on the protestant religion."

The master, however, being a communicant (and thus at least outwardly conformable) the bishop confirmed the appointment, and it was on this occasion that he reproved Mr. Fleetwood "very tartly." (See p. 77.)

The manuscript then relates that "in the meantime the unhappy wars between the king and parliament began, and Thomas Robinson being a souldier of the trained bands and not willing to carry arms against the parliament (and the Earle of Darbie beginning to call them to goo against Manchester) hee went out of the country, leaving the schole wryting in the keeping of his sister, Margaret Riley of Clifton," and Mr. William Walker sent "his servant Mr. Peter Wright, William Kiching of Kirkham and 3 or 4 of sir John Girlington's¹¹ souldiers with Ned Kirbie late in the evening to demand the schole wrytings." Not getting these, "the souldiers fell to plundering and took 20s. of the wiffes and divers linen sheets, with a flitch of bacon, and went their way to Kirkham, and enjoyning her to come without fail in the morning and let them have the wrytings and get some of the bacon againe, but the 20s. and the fine flaxen sheets she could not get."¹²

The local chronicler then states "that the country was in a *combustion* and great preparation at that tyme to go against Blackburn, and Mr Walker had the schole wrytings till after the taking of Preston by colonel Shuttleworth; * * * and that the gentlemen feofees of the schole, Mr Clifton, Mr Westby, Mr Walker and Mr Bradley, leaving their homes for feare of the parliament, the schole stock got into desperate hands," and Mr Whaley gave up teaching, either for want of salary or because

¹¹ Sir John Girlington, knt. and high sheriff of Lancashire, and Roger Kirby, esq., were appointed collectors for the hundred of Lonsdale, December 1642. (See *Discourse of the War in Lancashire*.)

¹² For corroboration of this plundering of Kirkham see *Discourse on the War in Lancashire*, p. 38.

“he hard of some harsh speach that collonell Rigbie should give out against him, as well knowing what mind he had to the parliament.”

After prince Rupert returned from York and “the rear of his army was gone out of the county” the parishioners again had time to think of the school, and on the 17th April following new feoffees were elected and a master appointed; and they purchased from James Smith “the rents of the king’s revenue, called the chantry rents, of the parish of Kirkham and S^t Michael’s, which came to 11*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* a year * * * and a 10*l.* rent out of Eaglford parish in Blackburn.” When the king came to the throne, however, this purchase was disputed and the greater part of it lost to the school.¹³

The next benefactor of the school was Henry Colborne scrivener of London, who was born and educated at Kirkham, and who, in a codicil of his will dated 7th August 1655, directed his trustees to purchase a lease of the rectory of Kirkham and invest the profits for the first sixteen years (except 100*l.* per annum for his son) in lands, to maintain schools &c.; and the lands to be settled on the Company of drapers in London. In 1673 lands were purchased in London and 69*l.* 10*s.* secured to the use of the school, of which 45*l.* was for the head master, who was to be “a university man and obliged to preach once a month at least in the parish church or in some of the chapels;” 16*l.* 16*s.* for the second master; and 8*l.* for an usher.¹⁴

By a decree in chancery in 1673 it was ordered that the township of Kirkham should keep the building in repair, and

¹³ 19 Sept. 1661. James Smith the younger agreed to pay 6*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per annum for ten years. Notwithstanding this the feoffees were cited to appear before the commissioner of the archbishop of York, but nothing came of it. This closes the MS. history of the school. William Langton in 1798 adds that he believes the writer of this to be Thomas Robinson of Westby, who died in 1662.

¹⁴ *Charity Commissioners’ Report*. Goosnargh claimed part of Colborne’s gift, and a bill was filed in 1673 against the Drapers’ company, and a portion ordered to be allotted to Goosnargh. (See *Hist. of Goosnargh*, p. 128.)

that the Company of drapers should have the appointment of masters.¹⁵

Another benefactor of this school was the rev. James Barker, who for nearly half a century was rector of Thrandeston in the county of Suffolk, where the parish register records :

“1655. Maria uxor Jacobi Barker rectoris ecclesia de Thrandeston sepulta fuit Sep. 19.”

“1670. Jacob⁹ Barker rector hujus ecclesiæ die sexto Julii defunctus die septimo sepultus.”

By his will, which was proved on the 7th November 1670, he directed his executors to purchase lands which should yield a yearly rental of 30*l.*, which was to be settled on ten trustees to be nominated by the bailiffs and chief burgesses of Kirkham, who were to pay : first, 10*l.* per annum to the schoolmaster “for his better encouragement ;” second, 12*l.* per annum, to be paid half-yearly as an “exhibition or allowance to such poor scholer of the towne as shall then be admitted to the university” — this exhibition to be open only to scholars born in Kirkham and “bred and sent from the Free school ;”¹⁶ third, 5*l.* for binding apprentices (see chapter IX.) ; and fourth, the residue for a dinner for the trustees at their annual meeting, when they are to “enquire concerning the demeanure of the scholler at the university, and if they shall find he is riotously given or disordered and debauched they shall withdraw the exhibition.”¹⁷

Accordingly, in November 1673, lands and tenements at Nether Methop in Westmoreland were purchased for 530*l.*¹⁸

In 1720 the coppice woods at Nether Methop were cut and sold for 630*l.*, which was invested in lands at Kirkham.

¹⁵ For original regulation made by the Drapers' company see *Charity Com. Report*.

¹⁶ In case there were no scholars qualified for this exhibition the 12*l.* was to be devoted to binding apprentices.

¹⁷ *School Minute book*.

¹⁸ The purchase money was not to exceed 500*l.*, so the 30*l.* was taken out of the first year's rent ; but it appears from the old *Minute book* that no profits were received by the school until 1675.

About the year 1813 the estate of Nether Methop was sold for 11,500*l.*, and the estate at Broughton was purchased for the school &c.¹⁹

In September 1725 William Grimbaldson, M.D., by his will left 400*l.* with which lands were to be purchased, and the rent of it should be paid to the head master of the school, provided "that he should be a scholar bred at Westminster, Winchester or Eton, and a master of arts," and in default of such master the money to be expended in binding out apprentices.²⁰

Dr. Grimbaldson also left 50*l.* to be invested in land to purchase classical books for the school.²¹

There is little more need be here added, except that the trustees appointed under Barker's will still retain the management of the school.

Amongst the earliest trustees were Dr. Leigh, Mr. Lowd, the rev. Richard Clegg, Richard Tomlinson, Thomas Rigby, John Hornby, Thomas Hankinson, John Hanson and James Lawson, who were appointed in 1695; Christopher Parker was elected in 1710 in place of Mr. Rigby of Ribby deceased; the rev. James Mount, 1714; the rev. W. Dickson, 1721; the rev. R. Loxham vicar of Poulton, 1735; John France junior of Middle Raucliffe esq. in the room of his grandfather deceased, 1763; Thomas Langton in the room of his father deceased, 1763; and Cuthbert Bradkirk, 1777.²²

THE HEAD MASTERS.

RICHARD WILKINS (or WILDING) was schoolmaster before 1585, when he was re-appointed by the thirty-men for "one year

¹⁹ In 1869 the gross annual rent of the school property was 622*l.* 15*s.* (*Charity Commissioners' Report.*)

²⁰ The money is now spent for the latter purpose.

²¹ *Charity Commissioners' Report.*

²² Old *Minute book.*

or more at his and their good will and liking." He probably held the situation until his death on the 23rd January 1613-14.

THOMAS ARMISTEED was appointed about the year 1621 (see p. 137). He was cousin to "Mr William Armisteed,"²³ and was himself in holy orders, as he, when he left the school (about 1627), at the solicitation of "Mr Fleetwood of Penwortham, went thither and exercised at that church," and he is said to have been "a man of good sufficiencies that way and of a plausible speech." As an inducement to give up the school Mr. Fleetwood agreed that "he should have his dyet with him in his house and other accommodation."²⁴

— SOKELL before 1621 had taught here and also at Lund chapel, and was a man "well-beloved with many in the parish." He was elected head master in 1628, and taught the school for three or four years, when "he grew aweary."²⁵

WILLIAM ARMISTEED, who was for some time curate of Kirkham and a substitute to the commissary of Richmond, had "gotten himself into some favour with the feofees through bestowing upon the schole some of his commining moneys, that is such money as [he] had of adulterers and fornicators for releasing their penance," and was appointed master in 1631,²⁶ and remained in office four or five years.²⁷ He died in October 1658.²⁸

THOMAS FABER, for some years usher, succeeded William Armisteed in the head mastership. He was "a younge man,

²³ Probably the William Armisteed who was curate.

²⁴ MS. *History of the school*.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ The *Register* records the baptism of five of his children : William (1623), Thomas (1624), Jane (1625, buried 1626), John (1630), Jane (1634), Merie (1637). His wife's name was Margaret.

²⁸ Buried at Kirkham 14th October.

and was drawne to some scandalous drinking and folly, and of very shame left" the town.²⁹

HUGH WHALEY was a Preston man, and his appointment was strongly opposed. (See pp. 139-40). He only remained until 1643, and "brought a many ingenious young men so forward that divers of them went to the universities and proved good schollers for their tymes."³⁰

HENRY DOUGHTIE was elected on the 17th April 1644. He was the son of a schoolmaster in Wakefield, and taught here until the duke of Hamilton came through the county in August 1648, when he ignominiously fled to his native place "for fear of the souldiers."³¹ He was succeeded by

JOHN BARNES, formerly a scholar at Kirkham, and then lately come from the university. He only remained a short time.³²

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, the son of Robert Whitehead of Greenhalgh, is described as "having been brought up to learning all his life, and fit for no other employment than teaching."³³ He was appointed about 1659, and died in August 1678.³⁴ He had two sons living in 1686, viz. Robert and John. (See pp. 150-51.)

At this time the salary of the head master was 45*l.*, the second master 16*l.*, and the usher 8*l.* per annum.

ZACHARY TAYLOR, M.A. The exact date of his appointment is not known, but it was probably in the year 1673 or 1674. He was born in 1618, graduated at Dublin university, and upon leaving college had some preferment in Ireland, but left that country during the troublous times which ensued. In 1654 he became head master of the Rochdale grammar school, and was

²⁹ MS. *History of the school.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³⁰ Mr. Whaley died soon after 1643. *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

at the same time curate³⁵ under the rev. Robert Bath, then vicar of Rochdale, and was with him ejected in 1662.

Whilst at Rochdale he gave evidence before sir Ralph Ashton bart. and Robert Holt, two justices of the peace, that on "the 20 August [1663] coming home he found at his house a stranger who brought him commendations from some friends in Ireland. He had travelled through Yorkshire. He calls himself a taylor by trade, going to London. Supposed him to be one Chamber whom he had formerly known in Ireland; supposed he had a hand in a plot in that country. This he denied. Was troubled all night, and early this morning gave the information. Before he could return with a constable the stranger departed."³⁶

He afterwards held the mastership of the Bolton grammar school, which he resigned on his appointment to Kirkham. In 1683 the vicar of Kirkham (R. Clegg) complained to the "Company of drapers" that Mr. Z. Taylor refused to preach on the first Sunday in March, and seven other sermons at Hambleton, Lund and Kirkham, or to find a substitute. To this they replied, that, "considering the age and infirmities of Mr. Taylor, [they] did think fit to have him at liberty to preach in what chapel he pleased, so that he preached in some one on a Lord's day in every month."³⁷

He died at Kirkham in February 1692, and was there buried on the 5th February, aged 74. He married Abigail, the daughter of — Ward.

Calamy says of him "though he had been a chaplain in the king's army in the civil war, yet he joined with the classical presbytery at Bury. He was a very good scholar and an useful schoolmaster, a solid orthodox preacher, and a pious man." Dr. Halley states that "he may with propriety be called an episcopalian nonconformist."³⁸

³⁵ The Rochdale *Registers* record the baptism of several of his children from 1656 to 1666.

³⁶ *Manuscript letter.*

³⁷ *Thirty-men's Records.*

³⁸ *Lancashire, its Puritanism and Nonconformity*, vol. ii, p. 179.

His son, the rev. Zachary Taylor, M.A. Jesus college, Cambridge, 1674, was curate to Dr. Stratford bishop of Chester at Wigan, and a king's preacher for the county of Lancaster. On the 9th March 1679 he became vicar of Ormskirk, and resigned in 1693.³⁹ On the 10th December 1695 he was appointed to the rectory of Croston by the gift of king William.⁴⁰

He married, on the 12th July 1685, Barbara daughter of sir Edward Stanley third baronet of Bickerstaff, the grandfather of Edward eleventh earl of Derby, and had issue.⁴¹

He was the author of the following works :

The Surey Imposter, 4to, London, 1697.⁴²

Popery, Superstition and Ignorance and Knavery confess'd and fully proved on the Surey Demoniac from the second Letter of an Apostate Friend to Zach. Taylor, 4to, London, 1699.⁴³

Several of his sermons have also been published.

Elizabeth the daughter of Zachary Taylor the elder married, on the 10th August 1689, Cornelius Langton of Kirkham, and, surviving her husband, was buried at Kirkham on the 20th November 1736, leaving issue.

RICHARD WHITEHEAD appears as head master from 1692 until his death in 1701,⁴⁴ when

RICHARD TAYLOR succeeded him⁴⁵ (on the 9th April) ; and he dying in 1744, the Company of drapers elected

³⁹ Baines's *Lancashire*, vol. ii, p. 411.

⁴⁰ This had fallen to the crown owing to the simony of the late rector.

⁴¹ A Zachary Taylor of Westminster was named in Dr. Stratford's will, 1753.

⁴² This was in reply to the *Surey Demoniac*, London, 1679, and was replied to by T. Jolly.

⁴³ The "apostate friend" was "N. N.," the author of *The Lancashire Levite Rebuked*. Calamy and others have spoken of Taylor as the author of a work called "the Lancashire levite:" this is an error, it being merely the epithet applied to him by "N. N."

⁴⁴ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

⁴⁵ He put in 100*l.* security, and efforts were now made to have a school-dame appointed.

THE REV. JOHN THRELFALL, on condition that he should not be curate of Kirkham or of any other church or parish.

John Threlfall was the son of William and Anne Threlfall of Thistleton;⁴⁶ matriculated at Wadham college, Oxford, on the 5th June 1739, and took his B.A. degree on the 26th April 1740. He was for fifty-six years the head master, and died on the 13th November 1801, aged 84. There is a tablet to his memory on the south wall of Kirkham church. (See p. 130.)

He married the daughter of Thomas Langton of Kirkham esq.

There appears to have been no regular master appointed for the next five years, but the rev. Thomas Stephenson in 1803 acted as master *pro temp.* From 1802 to 1806 the vestry of Kirkham report to the Drapers' company that the school from "a variety of causes has of late years fallen much into disuse," and recommend that a master should be appointed by "public examination." About this time the school was partly rebuilt; and in September 1806

JAMES THOMAS HALLOWAY, D.D. of Exeter college, Oxford, was head master, and he remained until 1808.⁴⁷ He was afterwards successively vicar of Stanton-on-nineheath in Shropshire, and minister of the episcopal chapel, Fitzroy square, London, where he died on the 7th August 1855, aged 75.

THE REV. HENRY DANNETT, B.A. of Brasenose college, Oxford, was elected head master on the 22nd March 1808, and resigned on the 6th May 1814. He was afterwards curate of Wraxall and Atworth in Wiltshire, and rector of St. John's, Liverpool, and died at York on the 10th January 1815.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Baptised at Kirkham on the 5th January 1718.

⁴⁷ *School Minute Book.* He acquired the degree of D.D. on the 7th May 1818, and was the author of one or two theological pamphlets. (*Gent. Mag.*, vol. xlv, part ii.)

⁴⁸ *Gent. Mag.*, vol. lxxxv, part i.

THE REV. PHIPPS GERARD SLATTER, M.A., was appointed on the resignation of the last master, at which time he was curate of Whitechapel. (See *History of Goosnargh*, p. 49.) To him is due the honour of having established the first Sunday school in Kirkham, which was held on the floor of the old windmill. He died on the 26th March 1815, aged 25 years (see p. 131), universally respected and beloved.

THE REV. JAMES RADCLIFFE, M.A., was appointed curate of Kirkham on the 15th September 1815,⁴⁹ and was elected about the same time to the mastership of the school. He died in February 1836, and was buried at Kirkham.⁵⁰ He was also curate of Whitechapel. (See *History of Goosnargh*, p. 50.) He was a man of considerable ability, of a reserved manner, and as a schoolmaster a strict disciplinarian.

THE REV. RICHARD MARTINDELL LAMB, M.A. of Trinity college, Cambridge, officiated as temporary head master until the 4th June 1837, when

THE REV. GEORGE THISTLETHWAITE, M.A., curate of Ribby with Wrea (see p. 64), succeeded him, and died in 1845.

THE REV. S. E. WENTWORTH, M.A., was the next regularly appointed master, and was afterwards curate of Ribby with Wrea (see p. 65). He held the office from 1845 to 1860.

THE REV. JOHN BURROUGH, M.A. of Queen's college, Oxford,

⁴⁹ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

⁵⁰ A stone in the chancel marks the spot, but the inscription is covered with boards. He was the son of Mr. John Radcliffe of Worcester, and married the daughter of Edward King vice-chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, brother to captain King who accompanied captain Cook on his last voyage. He had issue one son. James Radcliffe's death was the result of the overthrowing of a gig which he was driving from Warton on a dark night.

is the present head master, being appointed on the resignation of Mr. Wentworth.

THE EXHIBITIONERS UNDER BARKER'S TRUST.

The following is a complete list of the scholars sent to the university under the rev. James Barker's will. (See p. 142). This exhibition was originally worth 12*l.* per annum, but in 1806 it had risen to 80*l.*, and has of late years been again considerably increased.

March 1675.⁵¹

JAMES FFISHER, the eldest son of the rev. John Fisher vicar of Kirkham (see p. 80), was born in November 1655. He is described in the minute book as "grandson of Mr. fleetwood late vicar, who was a special friend unto our worthy benefactor." James ffisher at the time of his election was at Brasenose college, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree on the 26th April 1676, and in March 1678 he was appointed vicar of Mentmore, Buckinghamshire.⁵²

November 1681.

HENRY WOODS, son of Jephery Woods, B.A. of University college, Oxford, 17th November 1681, in August 1683 became schoolmaster of the Grammar school of Up-Holland near Wigan, founded in 1668 by Peter Walthew.

..... 1686.

JOHN WHITEHEAD, the second son of William Whitehead head master of Kirkham grammar school (see p. 145), and bro-

⁵¹ The dates of election and names, and in some instances the parentage, are extracted from the *School Minute Book*.

⁵² He did not remain long here, as in 1686 John Hornby was vicar. (*Mentmore Reg.*)

ther to Robert Whitehead also a schoolmaster.⁵³ He went to St. John's college, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1689 and M.A. 1693.

11th September 1691.

JOHN COLBRON was admitted sizar of Jesus college, Cambridge, on the 6th June 1691, and took his B.A. degree in January 1694.⁵⁴

17th September 1696.

JOHN WHITESIDE, the son of George Whiteside and Margaret his wife, was baptised at Kirkham on the 2nd November 1679 and graduated at Brasenose college, Oxford, B.A. on the 16th January 1699, and M.A. on the 23rd June 1704. He was appointed keeper of the Ashmolean museum in 1714, and held the appointment until 1729.

30th January 1701-2.

JAMES HULL, son of James Hull of Kirkham, B.A. of Jesus college, Cambridge, 1704.⁵⁵

1711.

WILLIAM LAWSON, the son of James and Ellen Lawson, was baptised at Kirkham on the 27th May 1690, and took his B.A. degree at Brasenose college, Oxford, on the 13th October 1711. In 1728 he was curate of Middleton near Manchester, and head master of the Grammar school there. He afterwards received the appointment to the rectory of Radcliffe. A tombstone beneath the east window in the churchyard of Middleton records the death of James his son, who died on the 3rd May 1728, aged 7 years; and Abigail his wife (and daughter of Joseph Gregg

⁵³ *School Minute Book*. Robert Whitehead was second master.

⁵⁴ *College Book*.

⁵⁵ He had a brother John then living at Kirkham.

of Chamber hall esq.), who died on the 3rd August 1756, aged 63.

William Lawson died on the 27th February 1757, aged 66, and was buried at Middleton.

29th September 1715.

CHRISTOPHER ALBIN, the son of John and Isabel Albin, was baptised at Kirkham on the 21st June 1697; B.A. of Brasenose college, Oxford, on the 19th February 1718. He was curate of Bispham in 1736,⁵⁶ and held the appointment until his death. In the south gallery of Poulton-le-Fylde church is an inscription recording that he died on the 30th June 1753, aged 56. A son, Bickerstaff, was baptised at Kirkham on the 7th December 1736.

7th September 1714.

ZACHARY LANGTON was the third son (an older Zachariah or Zachary having died in infancy) of Cornelius Langton of Kirkham (see p. 147) mercer and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of the rev. Zachary Taylor head master of the Kirkham grammar school. (See p. 145.) He was baptised at Kirkham on the 24th September 1698. His father, who died when he was fourteen years old, by will provided for the maintenance &c. of his children, and added: "It is further my will and desire that my son Zachariah shall be made a scholar and have university education if he may be thought fit and capable for the same." On his election to the Barker exhibition he proceeded to Magdalen college, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. on the 18th December 1721 and M.A. on the 10th June 1724, and entered the church.⁵⁷ According to a letter addressed by his mother to bishop Clayton (his kinsman) it appears that "he left a very comfortable subsistence near London, where he was much beloved and had some friends," to follow the bishop "into a very remote part of Ireland,

⁵⁶ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester. He signs testimonials of the rev. Edward Dickson, B.A.

⁵⁷ He is no doubt the Mr. Langton who preached at Kirkham in 1725. (See p. 110.)

where he has been confined several years, and in great difficulties every spring to get the mere necessities of life, and (what is more grievous to him) where he is deprived of all those advantages and opportunities which he enjoyed before of informing and improving himself." His mother then complains that the bishop had neglected the claims of her son, to whom he had promised that if he would come over to Ireland "he would not forget him when anything offered." The preferment which Zachary Langton held in Ireland is said to have been near Castlebar. He was chaplain to the first earl of Harrington, then lord-lieutenant,⁵⁸ and is believed to have held a prebendary. He married Bridget daughter of Alexander Butler of Kirkland, who died without issue. In November 1761 he returned to England, and died at Oxford on the 1st February 1786.

The rev. Zachary Langton published anonymously *An Essay concerning the Human Rational Soul*.⁵⁹

30th May 1726.

RICHARD LAWSON, younger brother to William Lawson. (See *ante*.)

21st September 1728.

JAMES SMALLEY, the son of Robert and Margaret Smalley, was a student at Christ's college, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. in 1731.

28th May 1732.

EDWARD DICKSON, the son of James Dickson; B.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge, 1735. He was nominated curate of Kirkham, at a stipend of 30*l.* per annum, in December 1736.⁶⁰

19th August 1738.

WILLIAM HALL, the son of — and Joanna Hall, went to Christ's college, Cambridge, and died before June 1741.

⁵⁸ Between 1746 and 1761.

⁵⁹ Dublin, 1753; Liverpool, 1755.

⁶⁰ *Bish. Reg.*, Chester.

18th May 1741.

JOHN ROBINSON appears to have gone to Cambridge, but probably took no degree. He was the nephew of Thomas Robinson of Kirkham.

11th June 1764.

THOMAS PARKINSON,⁶¹ the son of Adam Parkinson and Elizabeth his wife,⁶² was born at Kirkham on the 14th June 1745 ; admitted a student at Christ's college, Cambridge, on the 11th October 1765, and graduated there A.B. 1769, A.M. 1772 and S.T.B. 1789. He was elected a fellow of his college in 1771, and in 1789 was appointed vicar of Kegworth in Leicestershire. Dr. Parkinson was archdeacon of Leicester, chancellor of the diocese of Chester, prebendary of St. Paul's and a fellow of the Royal society.⁶³

Thomas Moore the poet, in his *Diary*, relates the following incident :⁶⁴

"19 Mar. 1819. Saw and was introduced to Mr. W——, who has a beautiful seat near Bath. What interested me most was to hear that he is the man for whom my excellent friend Dr. Parkinson was jilted in his youth by a girl whom he had long loved, whom he had educated for the purpose of marrying her, and by whom he thought himself beloved. In a visit to Bath she was dazzled by the attractions of the fortune of W——, and married him ; but not contented with making one amiable man her victim (for Parkinson never has recovered the disappointment), she was resolved to sacrifice her husband's happiness also, and accordingly ran away from him with a captain S——, from whom she afterwards passed through various hands, and through every gradation of profligacy, till death, I believe, has put an end to her

⁶¹ The exhibition was now worth 36*l.* per annum.

⁶² Her maiden name was Swan, and she is said to have descended from the Leghs of Lyme.

⁶³ William Pitt, a few months before his death, promised the next vacant bishopric to Dr. Parkinson.

⁶⁴ Vol. ii, p. 279.

infamous career. An annuity which her first lover (P.) allowed her when he heard of the wretchedness she had fallen into was the only thing that kept her at last from starving in the streets. This circumstance has cast a tone of pensiveness over Parkinson's life (who has never married), which renders the goodness and purity of his heart still more interesting."

Dr. Parkinson died at Kegworth rectory on the 13th November 1831, in his 86th year. There is a monument to his memory in the church.

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*⁶⁵ writes :

"His disposition was mild, obliging, patient, humble and serious ; his habits were temperate ; benevolence was a leading feature in his composition, and had manifested itself in beautiful operation through every stage of his life. * * * He was of middle stature ; his countenance bland and ingenuous ; his eye keen and piercing, and strongly demonstrative of the active and fertile mind which reigned within."

His published works are :

The Duties and Qualifications of the Christian Minister &c. (a sermon) 1801.

What is Truth? (a sermon) 1816.

A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Leicester, 1822.⁶⁶

31st May 1773.

RICHARD HALL, B.A. of St. John's college, Cambridge, 1778.

8th June 1778.

BENJAMIN PARKE, the son of William Parke and Ellen his wife, was baptised at Kirkham on the 3rd August 1759, and

⁶⁵ Vol. ci, p. 85.

⁶⁶ Dr. Parkinson's younger brother Robert was also educated at the Kirkham school, and in October 1774 10l. was given to him by the Barker's trustees "as a free gift." He was then a student at Emmanuel college, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1777 and M.A. 1780. He was afterwards chaplain on board the ship of admiral sir James Douglass, and died rector of Witham in Essex.

became a fellow of Pembroke hall, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1782 and M.A. 1785. He was appointed vicar of Tilney in the county of Norfolk in 1805.

In the chancel of Tilney church is the following inscription :

Beneath this stone lie the mortal remains
of the rev^d Benjamin Parke, M.A.,
for nearly thirty years
the highly respected vicar of this parish,
and prebendary of the 4th stall
in the Ely cathedral.

He died 14 January 1835,
aged 74 years.⁶⁷

He was liberal without ostentation, and his word
was justly esteemed equal to the firmest bond
by those who knew him longest and best.

Punctual in the discharge of every duty.

He was many years an active, disinterested,
and upright magistrate.⁶⁸

20th May 1782.

GEORGE PORTER, son of Nicholas Porter and Grace his wife, baptised at Kirkham on the 20th June 1763 ; B.A. of Christ's church college, Cambridge, 1786. In 1822 he was curate of Billericay in the county of Essex.

1st June 1789.

RICHARD GOLDING, son of William and Elizabeth Golding, baptised at Kirkham on the 29th September 1765. He graduated at Christ's college, Cambridge, B.A. 1793, M.A. 1796.

13th May 1799.

ROBERT CLARKSON, the son of Edmund and Agnes Clarkson, baptised at Kirkham on the 9th March 1781. He was a student

⁶⁷ This should be 76.

⁶⁸ Benjamin Parke married Katherine, the sister of the rev. William Stockdale rector of Mears Ashby in Northamptonshire.

at St. John's college, Cambridge, but does not appear to have taken any degree.

3rd June 1805.⁶⁹

HENRY RISHTON BUCK, son of the rev. Charles Buck curate of Lund (see p. 59), was admitted to Trinity college, Cambridge, on the 13th January 1805, from whence he removed to Pembroke college, and took his B.A. in 1809. Shortly after leaving the university he entered the army, and was amongst the slain on the field of Waterloo. He then held a lieutenant's commission in the 33rd regiment. (See p. 131.)

11th June 1810.

JAMES FOX, the son of the rev. James Fox of Warton and Alice his wife, was baptised at Kirkham on the 16th April 1791. (See p. 66.)

19th May 1828.⁷⁰

THOMAS SHARPLES, the eldest son of James Sharples of Kirkham builder (a descendant of the Sharples of Sharples hall near Bolton-le-Moors) and Isabella his wife and daughter of Lawrence Hool of Kirkham. He graduated at Emmanuel college, Cambridge, B.A. 1831, M.A. 1839, and was successively curate of Towton in Yorkshire, and Blackburn (parish church) in Lancashire, and vicar of St. Peter's, Blackburn, where he died on the 21st February 1858.

11th October 1830.

JOHN LEACH, son of John and Elizabeth Leach of Kirkham. B.A. of Pembroke college, Cambridge, 1834, and M.A. 1842. Formerly incumbent of All Saints', Little Bolton; chaplain of Foxdale, Isle of Man; and now vicar of Holy Trinity, Warrington, Lancashire.

⁶⁹ The exhibition was now 80*l.* per annum.

⁷⁰ No scholars were sent to college between 1810 and 1828.

19th May 1834.

THOMAS CROSSFIELD, the son of Thomas Crossfield of Kirkham and Anne his wife the daughter of John Threlfall of Stanall near Poulton-le-Fylde, matriculated at Queen's college, Oxford, on the 21st May 1834, where he was elected an exhibitioner on the foundation of sir Francis Bridgeman, B.A. 1838, M.A. 1841. In 1863 he was appointed vicar of Newtown near Wem in the county of Salop.

6th June 1838.

JAMES HOOL SHARPLES, younger brother of Thomas Sharples (see p. 157); of St. John's college, Cambridge, A.B. 1842, A.M. 1845.⁷¹ In 1845 he was appointed to the head mastership of the Grammar school of Heversham near Milnthrop, Yorkshire, which he resigned in 1872.⁷²

10th June 1867.⁷³

JOHN WHITEFORD SCOTT, son of the rev. Walter Scott curate of Freckleton. (See p. 67.)

29th May 1871.

JAMES ANDREW WINSTANLEY, son of John Winstanley of Kirkham.

⁷¹ Before going to the university he was for a year temporary master of the school.

⁷² Previously curate of Todmorden (parish church), Bolton-le-Moors (Trinity church), and Warrington (parish church).

⁷³ Between 1838 and 1867 no scholars were sent to college in consequence of the law-suit then going on. The following, however, were educated at Kirkham during this time: the rev. Thomas Bennett, B.A. (son of Thomas Bennett of Kirkham yeoman and Rachel his wife), curate of Warden with Newbrough, Northumberland; the rev. George Bennett (brother of above) master of the Grammar school of Kirkby, Ravensworth, Yorkshire, and canon of St. Paul's, St. Helena; and the rev. Edward Bennett, B.A., curate of Pickering, Yorkshire.

CHAPTER IX.

THE PUBLIC CHARITIES.

KIRKHAM: TOWN AND TOWNSHIP.

BREAD MONEY.

ON the 5th April 1670, at a meeting of the "vicar and 30 men, with the consent and countenance of some of the gentⁿ and of present ch^{ch}wardens for the parish, with some other neighbours of repute in the respective townships," it was agreed that steps should be taken to raise 80*l*. to be invested as a stock for the poor, so as to "settle a stand^s and perpetual allow^e of a dozⁿ penny loaves for every Sunday in the year, Christmas and the king's birthday, and for every other holiday, to be given to so many of such poor people as shall use to frequent the church, and to those of distant townships, most of all provided that these loaves * * * shall not be given to strangers or vagabonds, nor to children that shall but play about the church till sermon be passed and then come in for a loaf. Nor to any of the town of Kirkham in summer, but only in winter. * * * And for the raising of the money it was resolved that what can be got by contribution of the communicants at Easter shall be thus employed until the above some be raised." * * *

Richard Clegg the vicar agreed to give 5*l*., which he declared he intended "one time or other, if he lived and died at Kirkham and of ability for it," to make into 20*l*.

It was further agreed that the 5*l*. given to the poor by Jane wife of Robert Clifton should be devoted to this purpose, and

also the arrears due from Goosnargh for the customary rent; and the thirty-men present pledged themselves that on account of any burial in which they should be concerned, they will give to this charity what they would ordinarily have given for doles.¹

Mrs. Mary Nightingale the daughter of the rev. Richard Clegg (see p. 82), in September 1740, gave a further sum of 20*l.* to this fund.

In 1869 it consisted of 102*l.* 2*s.*, which yielded a yearly income of 5*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

The institution of this charity is named on vicar Clegg's tombstone. (See p. 128.)²

CLEGG'S CHARITY.

This arises from 12*l.* given by the rev. Richard Clegg before-named, the interest of which is paid (as desired by the donor) to the clergyman who preaches a sermon on Easter Tuesday in Kirkham church.³

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

This was founded by John Langton and Ann Hankinson, who, by deed dated 16th May 1760, had conveyed to them certain premises, and they covenanted with John Dannell, William Shepherd and Thomas Langton, that they and their heirs should stand seized of the aforesaid premises as trustees, and dispose of the yearly rents for educating such young girls in the township of Kirkham as they should from time to time select.

The land &c. originally purchased was called Bannister flatt in Freckleton and Freckleton croft and twelve beast-gates upon Freckleton marsh.⁴

The accounts of the school show that since 1761 upwards of 500*l.* has been given to this charity.

¹ An act of parliament to stop the giving of funeral doles was passed 27 Henry VIII., but it failed to abolish the custom.

² *Vestry Book.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Charity Commissioners' Report, 1824.*

The present annual income is a trifle under 100*l.* a year.
There is a schoolhouse, and the girls are taught and clothed.

RICHARD BROWN'S CHARITY.

Richard Brown conveyed in 1639 a close of land called New Moorhey in Kirkham to James Smith, upon the condition that he and his heirs should pay 20*s.* every Martinmas, which rent Richard Brown, "in consideration of the good will he bore to the town of Kirkham and the inhabitants thereof," granted to certain trustees, their heirs and assigns, for the use of the poor of the town, and to be distributed every St. Thomas's day at the discretion of the bailiffs.

It is now part of the bailiff's fund, as are also

MRS. CLEGG'S AND OTHER CHARITIES.

In 1734 certain closes of land in Kirkham called Swarbreck's old earth were purchased from Joseph Hankinson of Kirkham, the money for this purpose being given by the widow of the rev. Richard Clegg vicar and Mrs. Phœbe Sayle wife of Mr. Charles Sayle. The rental to be for the use of the poor of Kirkham, at the discretion of the trustees for the time being. Since then other lands have been purchased. A pew in Kirkham old church was claimed by the bailiffs and sometimes let, and when so let the rent received was added to this fund.

In 1869 the gross income was 21*l.* 3*s.* per annum.⁵

ELIZABETH BROWN'S CHARITY.

This was a legacy of 40*l.*, left by Elizabeth Brown on the 1st December 1739 to her executors upon trust to place the same upon security, and to distribute the interest thereof amongst the poor and necessitous widows residing in the town of Kirkham or in any township near Kirkham.

⁵ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824 and 1869.

HARRISON'S CHARITY.

William Harrison of Kirkham, by will dated 7th January 1767, bequeathed 140*l.* ; two-thirds of the interest or income of which was to be distributed in Common Prayer books, Bibles &c. to the poor of the town of Kirkham, and the remaining third in the same manner to the poor of Little Eccleston and Larbrick.⁶

The income is now over 17*l.* per annum.

William Harrison was interred in Kirkham churchyard. (See p. 133.)

MRS. BRADKIRK'S GIFT.

Mrs. Mary Bradkirk in 1816, in her own name and that of her relative Zachary Langton esq. of Bedford row, London, invested 320*l.* in the navy five per cents, and afterwards trustees were appointed, who were to distribute the dividends in the following manner :

Of 100*l.* amongst five poor persons of the township of Kirkham for life. Others to be chosen as each one died.

Of 20*l.* to Joseph Brewer then parish clerk of Kirkham for life, and after his death to the sexton for the time being.

Of 100*l.* to five poor persons of Ribby with Wrea, and of the remaining 100*l.* to five poor persons of Bryning with Kellarmergh.

It was stipulated that the recipients of the charity should be members of the church of England. The income is now over 10*l.* a year.

CLIFTON WITH SALWICK.

THE SCHOOL.

This school was founded by John Dickson, who, by will dated 9th May 1682, directed that 60*l.* which he had given to Matthew

⁶ *Charity Commissioners' Report, 1824.*

Riley and Thomas Crokall of Clifton should be invested by them, and the income to be disposed of as follows. One moiety for the first five years after his death to his brother William Dickson, and afterwards to such minister as should be authorised to teach and preach in the chapel of Lund according to the church of England; failing such minister then to the poor of Clifton. The other moiety to be paid yearly to a master who shall teach grammar in Clifton school.

Thomas Smith, by will dated 18th December 1685, left to "the chapel called Lund chapel" 23*l.*, of which the interest of 20*l.* was to be for the minister, and of 3*l.* for his trustees for ever.

Alice Hankinson, by will dated 15th July 1680, bequeathed 5*l.* for the use of the minister of the chapel of Lund; 5*l.* was similarly left by Alice Clitherall (see p. 165); and it appears by an indenture dated 7th November 1696, that with the consent of all parties these several gifts were united, and certain premises in Warton, called Ball's tenement, together with several closes of land were purchased; and the rental is expended according to the directions contained in the several wills before named.

There is the interest of 10*l.* (donor unknown) paid to the school trustees by the overseers of the township.⁷

CHARITY OF ROBINSON AND OTHERS.

The origin of this is unknown; but it appears from an indenture dated 24th January 1668 that Richard Badger, Robert Boulton and Jennet his wife, and William Croocoe and Ellen his wife, for a consideration of 80*l.*, conveyed to Edward Robinson, George Pigott, James Riley, William Robinson and William Daire certain plots of land in Freckleton, on condition that the said Edward Robinson should out of the rental pay 50*s.* per annum to Joseph Harrison (see p. 55) for life, and afterwards the same amount towards the maintenance of a minister to preach at Lund chapel. The present income is over 10*l.* per

⁷ *Charity Commissioners' Report, 1824 and 1869.*

annum; the 50s. is paid to the vicar of Lund, and the rest is (according to the trust deed) given to the poor of Kirkham.⁸

LITTLE ECCLESTON WITH LARBRICK.⁹

GILLOW'S CHARITY.

William Gillow, by deed dated 10th February 1697, conveyed to John France of Little Eccleston and Henry Kirkham of Larbrick their heirs and assigns a close of land called Porter's Harlow, in Little Eccleston, upon trust to pay out of the rental 10s. per annum (on the 25th December) to two or more of the poorest householders or other distressed poor living in the township.

By the will of George Gillow, dated 14th August 1720, a further sum of 20s. per annum was bequeathed for the same purpose, and to come out of the rental of the same close of land.

It is now paid by the overseers.¹⁰

FRECKLETON.

FRECKLETON'S AND OTHER CHARITIES.

A sum of 2*l.* 5*s.* is annually distributed to the poor which arises from certain rents which were purchased with the money given, about 1734, by Andrew Freckleton, Roger Rigby and John Kirkham; and 10s. a year left by Lawrence Webster.¹¹

⁸ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824 and 1869.

⁹ There is no school here; but the children of the poor in the township are free to the school at Copp.

¹⁰ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824.

¹¹ *Old Township Book*.

FRECKLETON, CLIFTON AND
NEWTON WITH SCALES.

CLITHERALL'S AND OTHER CHARITIES.

Elizabeth Clitherall of Clifton widow, by her will dated 4th December 1675,¹² left 5*l.*, the interest of which was to be given to the poor of these townships. With this sum an annual payment of 6*s.* was secured on a close of land called Bank Hey. There is also a yearly payment of 27*s.*, the origin of which is unknown.¹³

GREENHALGH WITH THISTLETON.

ESPRICK SCHOOL.

Henry Colbourne scrivener of London (see p. 141), by his will dated 7th August 1655, devised 5*l.* 10*s.* for the erection of a school at Esprick.

It appears, however, that no use was made of this money until 1679, when, by deed dated 17th June, forty-one of the inhabitants of Greenhalgh cum Thistleton, being owners and occupiers of land in the township, agreed jointly and proportionally, according to the value of their respective estates, to contribute such additional sums as might be necessary to complete a school-house, "to be freely made use of by and for the benefitt of all the inhabitants of the s^d township."

Amongst the parties to this deed were Christopher Parker, Henry Whitehead, Richard Carter, William Worthington, Edward Nickson, Richard Eccleston, Richard Hornby, Robert

¹² Proved at Richmond. She had a son Thomas and two daughters (Alice and Janet). Her executor was John Smith the younger of Clifton.

¹³ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824.

Whitehead, John Nickson, Richard Blackburne, John Threlfall the elder and James Winstanley.¹⁴

The school was partially built of clay and covered with a thatched roof.

The next benefactor was John Cooper, who, in 1766, left by will 60*l.*¹⁵ for the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Esprick, and directed that four children of Greenhalgh and two of Thistleton should be taught free.

A further sum of 80*l.* was subsequently raised by subscription.

In 1805 Mary Hankinson, by her will, bequeathed 200*l.* to this school, on condition that the poor of Esprick should be taught free.

Richard Burch of Greenhalgh, by will dated 13th May 1805, left 200*l.* in trust, that the interest thereof might be applied towards the education of the poor of Greenhalgh and Thistleton at Esprick school.

In 1850 the old school was pulled down and the present building and master's house erected.

Since that date the property of this charity has been further increased by a gift of 100*l.* from Miss Ellen Dewhurst (an owner of property in Greenhalgh), who also by will left a further sum of 200*l.*; and her sister, Miss Hannah Dewhurst, devised the residue of her estate for the benefit of Esprick school: this bequest amounted to upwards of 700*l.*

The school is managed by trustees, and is open, free, to all children in the township.

HAMLET OF GREENHALGH.

LAWRENSON'S CHARITY.

This consists of the interest of 20*l.* left by one Lawrenson, some time before 1781, for the poor of Greenhalgh.¹⁶

¹⁴ Deed in possession of the trustees of the school.

¹⁵ Part of this money was invested in two cottages and the rest lent on interest.

¹⁶ *Township Book.*

TOWNSHIP OF HAMBLETON.

THE SCHOOL.

The only endowment possessed by this school arises from a sum of 200*l.* which was left by Matthew Lewtas, a native of Hambleton (see p. 61), who died on the 12th September 1797, at Liverpool. By a clause in his will he directed his executors to invest this amount, and to pay the interest to John Hall son of George Hall of Hambleton until he attained the age of twenty-one years, unless before that time he should be appointed master of Hambleton school, but in case he was not so appointed (he being willing), then one half only was to be paid to him, and the remainder to the schoolmaster for the time being, on condition that he properly taught as many poor children of Hambleton township as the yearly income would pay for. The sum is now secured on mortgage, and John Hall (who never received the appointment) being dead, the income is received by the present master.

There was an old school at Hambleton long before 1797.¹⁷

SIR NICHOLAS SHERBURNE'S CHARITY.

Sir Nicholas Sherburne of Stonyhurst was lord of the manor of Hambleton, and died in 1717, when his estate passed to his sole daughter Mary duchess of Norfolk. In 1706 he charged his estate called Lentworth hall with (among others) an annual payment of 2*l.* to the poor of Hambleton.¹⁸ (See p. 60.)

NIGHTINGALE'S CHARITY.

This consists of the interest of 10*l.* given by Mrs. Mary Nightingale (see p. 82) for the use of poor housekeepers of Hambleton.

¹⁷ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824 and 1869.

¹⁸ *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. xxii, p. 423, Chetham soc.

MEDLAR WITH WESHAM.

THOMPSON AND CROOKALL'S CHARITY.

This arises from the sum of 50*l.* given, some time previous to 1789, by Thomas Thompson and William Crookall for the use of such poor housekeepers of Hambleton as have had no parochial relief.

The money is now invested in two cattlegates on Freckleton marsh.

NEWTON WITH SCALES.

THE SCHOOL.

The founder of this school was John Hornby of Newton with Scales, who, by will dated 24th May 1707, devised the remainder of his estate to Mathew Ryley of Clifton and five others as trustees, for a school, which was to be erected and maintained out of the interest of the money arising from the sale of such remainder, until an eligible purchase of land could be made. This estate realised 1,105*l.*, and with it certain freehold and leasehold premises were bought.

In 1809 the school received, under the will of James Boys of London,¹⁹ a further sum of 800*l.*

TOWNSHIP OF RIBBY WITH WREA.

THE SCHOOL.

James Thistleton of Wrea was a tailor, and for a great portion of his life his wages did not exceed 4*d.* a day and his victuals; yet, by his parsimony and industry, he managed to leave such a

¹⁹ James Boys was educated at this school, and after serving his apprenticeship in the neighbourhood went to London and realised a large fortune.

sum as enabled his executors to carry out a design which he had long cherished and spoken of, viz. to establish a school at Wrea.²⁰ He died in 1693, and was buried at Kirkham (see p. 132); and by his will, dated 10th January 1693, he left legacies, varying in amount from 1s. to 40s., to upwards of fifty persons.

Amongst the bequests in his will were :

“Item to Mr Clegg vicar to preach at my funeral, 10s.

“To Mr Parr [a dissenting minister], 10s.

“To William Thompson, my bible.

“ „ the townships of Kirkham, Brining and Westbie, 6s. 8d.
each to the use of their poor.”

All the residue of his estate he gave “towards the makeing and maintaining of a free school in the township of Ribby cū Wrea for ever,” only first providing that his sister should have sufficient maintenance out of the profits thereof during her natural life.

His executors were Richard Shepherd, Thomas Benson and Cuthbert Bradkirk.

The residue of the estate amounted to 180*l*.

Nicholas Sharples “citizen and innholder of London,” by will dated 10th September 1716, after leaving 100*l*. to his brother James Sharples, and legacies to his sister Mary, his nephews Robert Stephenson and Nicholas Sharples and others, bequeathed all the residue of his estate to two executors, Richard Wilson and Robert Pigot, who were, “with all convenient speed to apply such sūme of money” as they thought fit “towards the building or finishing of a school house for educateing of boys and girls in Ribby cum Wrea.” The executors were also to provide that the “governors or elders” of the school were, on St. Thomas’s day each year, to have a dinner at the cost of 10s. All the remainder of the estate was to go towards the purchase of a freehold for the benefit of the school, and for the payment of the master “for educating such a number of boys and girls as nyne of the most substantial men as shall be chosen and elected out of Ribby cum

²⁰ *Township Book.*

Wray for governors or elders, or the major part of them, shall think fit."²¹ This bequest amounted to 850*l*.

The first nine governors (appointed in 1722) were Cuthbert Nickson, George Cowban, William Whiteside, Cuthbert Bradkirk, Thomas Shepherd, William Benson, Robert Thompson, James Benson and James Brown.

A girls' school was established in 1780.

In 1847 the trustees of the free school made over to the church building committee "the materials of the boys' school, with room over the chapel and playground, also some waste land; and gave title to the said plot of land for site of a new church (see p. 63), on condition that the committee built a new school on the plot of land adjoining the girls' school."²²

The engagement was duly carried out.

TREALES, ROSEACRE AND WHARLES.

DR. GRIMBALDSON'S CHARITY.

William Grimbaldson, M.D. (see Free grammar school), by will dated 28th September 1725, left to trustees 300*l*. to be invested, and the interest thereof to be paid towards binding out apprentices in Treales the children of poor people not receiving alms of the parish.

BOULTON'S AND PORTER'S CHARITIES.

These consist of the rental of certain premises, amounting to about 13*l*. per annum, which is distributed amongst the poor of these townships, in accordance with the wills of Ellen Boulton dated 11th February 1657, and John Boulton dated 26th January 1658.²³ To these legacies was added 20*l*. by the will of

²¹ He also directed that his name should be inscribed in some convenient place on the walls of the school.

²² *Vestry Book*.

²³ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824.

John Porter in 1767, and a further 20*l.* given by his brother about the same date, and 1*l.* by Robert Whelley instead of a dole at the death of his wife in June 1664.²⁴

BRIDGETT'S CHARITY.

This is the interest of 15*l.* left (so says tradition) by one Bridgett for the poor of Wharles.

WARTON.

THE SCHOOL.

This school had been in existence many years before 1810, when, by voluntary contributions, a sum of 277*l.* was raised, with which the school was endowed. It was first built at the expense of the township.

William Dobson of Liverpool, by will dated 23rd May 1809, left 500*l.* to the trustees of the school; and Mrs. Frances Hickson bequeathed a sum of money which, after deducting the expenses of a trust deed, amounted to 500*l.*²⁵

A new school was erected in 1821.

WESTBY WITH PLUMPTON.

ANN MOOR'S CHARITY.

Ann Moor of Westby, by will dated 24th November 1805, gave 20*l.*, the interest of which was to be applied for the use of the poor of Great Plumpton, and 40*l.* to the use of Plumpton school.²⁶

²⁴ *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1824.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

CHAPTER X.

OLD HALLS AND OLD FAMILIES.

MOWBRECK HALL.

IN 33 Henry III. (1248-49) Theobald' le Botiler died seized of lands and rents in "Moulbret" and other places in the Fylde district,¹ and in the early part of the next century (1320-1346) the earl of [Oxford?] held two carves of land in "Westsome and Moulbroke" for half a knight's fee; paying yearly for the same at Michaelmas thirteen shillings and fourpence and suit to the county and wapentake of Amounderness. The earl also paid for other lands in the same places at four terms four shillings.²

At a very early period the Westby family had settled at Molbreck and erected a house there. The Westbys of Molbreck were descendants of the principal male branch of the Westbys of Westby in the county of York.

The following particulars of a suit in the duchy chamber throw considerable light on the early connection of this family with Molbreck.³

In 9 Henry VIII. (1517-18) Eleanor Westby widow, late wife of John Westby, pleads that since the decease of her late husband, which took place six years before (*i.e.* 1511-12), she has lived in a tenement in Molbreck; and she charges the defendants, Lawrence Preston, Christopher Rogerson, and others with

¹ *Cal. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. i, fol. 6.

² *Survey of Lancashire*, vol. lxxiv, p. 55, Chetham soc.

³ Record office, *Pleadings*, vol. iv, W. 3, 3a, 3b &c. &c.

having, on the 20th October 1517, riotously entered and robbed her goods and chattels, and also on the last day of June having taken away twelve beasts, and on the 20th December in the same year taken sixty sheep which belonged to her at Mydelour in Kirkham.

Lawrence Preston, one of the defendants, admits that he took forty-seven sheep from Molbreck, but says he did it by way of distress in right of himself, Beatrice his wife and Ann Westby. He denies the riot, and states that William Westby was seized of and in the manor of Molbreke in his demesne as of fee, and that he being so seized entered into a contract with Richard Boteler. This covenant was dated 5th October 19 Edward IV. (1479), and was to the effect that Richard Boteler agreed to pay 100*l.* on condition that William Westby made a sufficient estate to John Westby his son and heir and Mabill the daughter of Richard Boteler out of his lands in Molbreke, Westby and Weeton, to the yearly value of 7*l.*, to the use of the said Mabill for her life, and after her death to the heirs of the bodies of John and Mabill, with remainder to the said William Westby.

And William Westby accordingly gave the manor of Molbreke and thirty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture in Westby and Weeton, to Mabill Boteler for life, and afterwards to her children, and she then took to husband the aforesaid John Westby, and they had issue Beatrice and Anne, who were their heirs. After the decease of John and Mabill Westby their daughter Beatrice married at Preston, on the 15th June 8 Henry VIII. (1516), Lawrence Preston the defendant, who, in his wife's right and Ann her sister's, now claims to be seized of the manor &c., and states that in June last (1517) he sent to Molbreck for the rent two peaceably disposed persons, who demanded 43*s.* 4*d.* for the half-year's rent due at the feast of Pentecost, and upon Eleanor Westby (the plaintiff) refusing to pay the same, they seized the beasts as aforesaid, and conveying them to Preston there impounded them.

The answer of Eleanor Westby is, that William Westby died

seized of the lands &c. in dispute, and that they descended to his grandson William Westby, who was the son of John Westby, who was his son and heir; and William Westby (the grandson), having entered upon the same, did let them to farm to the plaintiff at a certain rental.

She admits that it is true that John Westby had issue Beatrice and Anne by his wife Mabill daughter of Richard Boteler, but asserts that after the said Mabill died the said John Westby married her (the said Eleanor), and had issue William Westby, who, at the time of her husband's death was "within age," and his friends had taken possession of the estate to his use.

From the evidence just quoted, as well as from other sources, it appears that several errors have escaped detection in the various versions of the pedigree of this family which have been printed.⁴ In the subjoined pedigree these mistakes have been corrected.

The John Westby of Mowbreck who was living in the reign of queen Elizabeth appears to have been imbued with the spirit of those stirring times, for when the queen wrote to the bishop respecting the small progress which the reformed religion made in Lancashire, his lordship, in his reply, singled out John Westby as one who treated the mandate of the queen with scorn and contempt, and was not unlikely to promote resistance, or to be unwilling to shed his blood if necessary. Subsequently, however, when called on for the defence of the county, he furnished his full quota of light horse, "coate plate, pyke, long bowe" &c., and in the reign of James II. he received a grant from the College of arms, setting forth that the "family were gentlemen of blood and coat armour, and lineally descended from the principal male branch of the ancient family of Westbye of Westbye in Yorkshire."

In 1553, when the hundred of Amounderness raised three hundred men, William Westbie of Mowbreck was one of the commanders.

⁴ See Baines's *Hist. Lanc.*; Foster's *Lanc. Ped.*; St. George's *Vis. S. L.*

† He was succeeded in his Turnover hall estate, as heir-at-law, by his cousin Thomas Westby, eldest son of his uncle George Westby, who was born at Whitehall in 1720, and died 14th Feb. 1776, having married, 31st March 1755, Mary, daughter of — Field, esq., of Middlesex. But he left his Whitehall and Mowbreck estates to George Westby, eldest son of his cousin, the above Thomas Westby, who died in Paris 31st July 1842, having married Mary Panton, eldest daughter of John Tate, esq., major in her majesty's 6th West India regiment of foot, by his wife, Mary, daughter of J. M. Harph, esq., leaving issue: Mary Virginia Ann; Matilda Julia, who married the rev. Henry Hayman, D.D., and had issue: Jocelyn Tate, late cornet Royal Scots greys, captain of Lancashire hussars, yeomanry cavalry, J.P. and D.L. co. Lancaster; Ada Perpetua, died young; Georgina Blanche, died young; Ashley George, late captain 8th king's regiment; Cuthbert Menzies, died young; Bernard Hagar and Basil Clifton, captains 16th regiment. At his death he was succeeded by his eldest son, Jocelyn Tate, who took the name and arms of Fazakerley by royal licence on his marriage, 16th April 1862, at St. George's parish church, Chorley, Lancashire, to Mathilda Harriette Gillibrand-Fazakerley, coheirress of her brother the late Henry Hawarden Gillibrand-Fazakerley, esq., and eldest daughter of Henry Hawarden Fazakerley of Gillibrand hall, Chorley, and Fazakerley house, Lancashire, lord of the manor of Chorley, J.P. and D.L. (by Harriet, daughter of colonel Kendrick of Nantclwydd, North Wales, by Ermine, daughter and coheirress of sir Thomas Kyffin of Maenan, North Wales), who was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Gillibrand, esq., of Gillibrand hall, Chorley, colonel of the 1st Lancashire militia, by Marcella Catherine Henrietta Goold, sister of the late sir George Goold, bart., of Old Conri, co. Cork, Ireland. He took by will the Fazakerley estates, assuming by royal license the name and arms of Fazakerley on the death of his cousin, Nicholas Fazakerley of Fazakerley house, colonel of the 3rd regiment Lancashire militia.

In the time of the Commonwealth the Mowbreck estate was confiscated, and was recovered to the family on the payment of a fine of 1,000*l*. The deed of conveyance, signed by Cromwell, is still retained amongst the Westby papers.

Mowbreck hall and the original manor is, as shown in the pedigree, still held by the family, the present owner being Jocelyn T. Fazakerly-Westby esq.

Mowbreck hall still presents many features of interest to the antiquarian; and although one of its wings has been pulled down, yet what remains is sufficient to indicate that in the good old time it must have been one of the finest of the halls of Kirkham.

Until quite recently a considerable portion of the mosaic pavement of the three court yards, representing a hunting scene, was intact, and even now the course of the moat which formerly surrounded the hall can distinctly be traced. Many portions of the interior of the hall show signs of considerable antiquity, and the old chapel, with its adjacent "priest's room," still remains. Tradition has preserved the story that over the altar of this chapel, on a particular day in October, a gory head appears.

A field in front of the hall is still known as Martyrdales, a fight (it is said) having taken place there in the time of the Jacobites.

BRADKIRK.

The manor of "Bretkirke" or "Bredkirk" formed a part of the possession of Theobald' le Boteler at the time of his death, 33 Henry III. (1248-49),⁵ but there is little doubt but that very shortly afterwards it passed into the hands of the family to whom it gave its name, and who held it for many succeeding centuries.

The Coucher Book of Whalley contains a deed without date (but which must have been executed between 1240 and 1260),

⁵ *Cal. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. i, fol. 6.

whereby Adam de Bredekyrk gave three bovates of land and appurtenances in "Etheleswyk" [Elswick] to Richard the son of Alan, as dower to his daughter Amabilia. This deed is witnessed by, amongst others, Walter the son of Suanus, William the son of Walter de Clifton, and Ricardus "persona de Kyrkeham."⁶

From another charter, probably of a little later date, we learn that Adam the son of Adam de Bredekyrk also had lands in Elswick;⁷ and it was probably he who was one of the witnesses to the charter referring to the market and fair of Kirkham (see p. 18), dated 24 Edward (1295).

According to the *Testa de Nevill* Adam de Bretekirke, William de Kyrkeym, Robert the son of Thomas and Richard the son of William held of the fee of Theobald Walter the sixth part of a knight's fee in "Thiseldon, Pres and Grenele."

Another Adam de Bredkirk died 18 Edward III. (1344-45) seized of the manor of Bredkirk and lands in Grenolfe [Greenhalgh] and "Newton juxta Frekilton." His wife Ismania survived him; and his son and heir was Adam de Bredkirk, then aged seven years.⁸

In 1380, amongst those who paid fines to the duke of Lancaster for various writs was a John de Bredekirk; and on the 4th March 1384 a precept was issued to the sheriff of Lancashire to elect a verdurer⁹ for Amounderness in the place of Adam Bradkirk, who was probably the Adam de Bredkirk just alluded to.

By a deed dated 6th April 2 Henry 4 (1401) John de Bredkyrk granted Robert son of John Smith de Kyrkham a certain "burgage" in the town of Kirkham, subject to a rental of vi^d per annum. This deed is witnessed by Robert de Merscowe, John le Smith (then bailiff of Kirkham), John de Cornay chaplain, and John de Coton.¹⁰

In 1 Henry VI. (1422-23) a John son of Adam de Bredkirk

⁶ Vol. xi, p. 459, Chetham soc.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 464.

⁸ *Duchy Records, Inq. Post Mort.*, 18 Edw. 3.

⁹ *Duchy Records* (32nd Report of Public Records, p. 35).

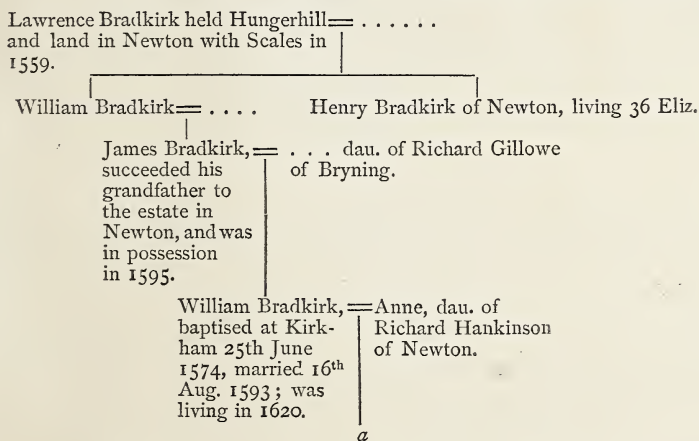
¹⁰ *Piccope MSS.*, Chetham library.

held lands in Newton; and in 5 Henry VII. (1489-90) there were in the same township Joan late wife of Roger Bredkirk and a Philip Bredkirk.¹¹

In the fifteenth century, or perhaps earlier, the Bradkirks were settled in Newton and Ribby with Wray, where they were very numerous.

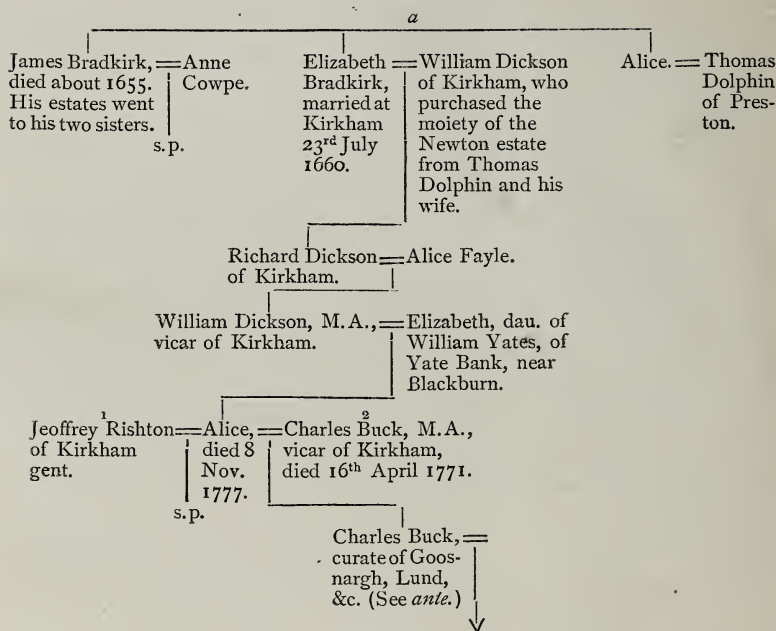
During the Lancashire civil war Clitherall castle was committed to the care of captain Cuthbert Bradkirk of Wray, who was characterised by his opponents as "a man of small account and of no good cariag;"¹² but as there were at least three of this name in Wray about this time, it is impossible now to identify the defender of Clitherall. (See *Registers*.)

The following pedigree, though incomplete, is of some interest :



¹¹ *Piccope MSS.*, Chetham library.

¹² *A Discourse of the War in Lancashire*, vol. lxii, p. 53, Chetham soc. The note (101) given to this is incorrect. A Cuthbert Bradkirk, the son of William Bradkirk and Mary his wife, was baptised on the 20th March 1714-15, and married Ann the daughter of John Langton of Kirkham. He had issue four sons and six daughters, the only one of whom left, viz. Betty, married John Langton of Kirkham. (See Langton pedigree.) A Cuthbert Bradkirk was a "thirty-man" in 1638, and a second of the same name in 1698.



At what period this family ceased to hold the manor of Bradkirk is unknown, but in the seventeenth century it had become part of the property of James earl of Derby.

On the 26th January 1652 the following articles of agreement were settled between the right honourable Charles earl of Derby and Christopher Parker of Bradkirk gent :

“It is agreed that whereas the man^r, messuage &c. lately belonging to James earl of Derby are to be alienated and sould for the use and advantage of the commonwealth, and whereas also tyme out of mind the ansestors of the said Christopher Parker have possessed and enjoyed a messuage &c. called Bradkirke, parcell of the inheritance of the said earl, wth now amongst other lands &c. is exposed to sale. Itt is concluded between both the said p^ties that the said Chröffer Parker, wth the free consent and assistance of the said Charles earl of Derby and his

agents, shall forthwth endeavour to purchase the said messuage &c. from the trustees authorized and impowered by act of parliament to contract bargains, sell &c. And that the said earl of Derby shall be aidinge and assistinge."

In consideration thereof Christopher Parker agreed to pay to the earl within three months "after the same shall be purchased three years, whole value of the said premises," and upon this payment being made the property was to be conveyed absolutely to Christopher Parker.

Accordingly, on the 20th May 1653, the trustees, nominated by act of parliament to conduct the sale of estates forfeited by treason, conveyed "that messuage and tenement called Bredkirke" to Christopher Parker, and a deed dated 16th July 1653, confirming this, was executed by the earl of Derby.¹³

In 1723 John Richardson of Preston gentleman purchased Bradkirk from Thomas Stanley of Cross hall and Catherine his wife, only sister and devisee of Christopher Parker esq. deceased and of Alexander Parker of Poulton gentleman, another devisee of Christopher Parker's.

William Richardson of the city of London died in 1767, in possession of the property, and left as his co-heirs Margaret the wife of John Rothwell of Bolton calenderman and dyer, his sister, and Edward Hurst of Preston gentleman, only son and heir of Edward Hurst and Beatrice, another sister of William Richardson.

By a family arrangement Edward Hurst took Bradkirk as his share of the property. He died on the 13th November 1771, having devised it to James Kearsley of Over Hulton esq. and his (the testator's) sister Margaret Kearsley, as joint tenants.

In 1797 James Kearsley (Margaret Kearsley being dead) sold the estate to Joseph Hornby of Ribby, whose grandson Hugh Hilton Hornby esq. of Ribby hall is the present owner.¹⁴

Nothing remains of the old hall, the present building being

¹³ *Title deeds.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

comparatively modern. Over the front door is "E : H. 1764 ;" and built into the wall of the barn, "E. H. 1761:" both referring to Edward Hurst, at that time the proprietor.

The Parkers of Bradkirk are frequently mentioned in the records of the parish, and appear to have been men of position and wealth. The subjoined pedigree is not only more extensive, but also more complete, than the one recorded by Dugdale in 1664-65.¹⁵

LARBRICK HALL.

The earliest mention of Larbrick is contained in the *Testa de Nevill*, which records that Adam de Eccleston, William de Molineus, Hugh de Mitton, Richard de Katerhale and Henry de Longford held of the fee of William Lancaster the sixth part of a knight's fee in Eccleston, Leyrebreck and Katerhale. This William de Lancaster at the time of his marriage gave five carucates of land in the two Ecclestons and "Lairbrec," which were then in the holding of Richard Mulas and William Blundell,¹⁶ Ralph de Eccleston, Walter the son of Swein and Geoffry.¹⁷

In 10 Edward III. (1336-37) William de Coucy de Gynes died seized of "Laierbroke," Eccleston parva and other places,¹⁸ but between then and 33 Edward III. (1359-60) it appears to have become the property of William the son of Richard de Molyneux de Sefton, and is then described as "Layrbroke manor." In 36 Edward III. (1362-63) William the son of William de Molyneux, "consanguineus & heres" of Richard de Molyneux, died in possession of "Lairebrek vill," the manor of Wyresdale and lands and tenements in Winmarleigh and "Northbreke."¹⁹

A few years after this and Richard Molineux the second son

¹⁵ Vol. lxxxvii, p. 227, Chetham soc.

¹⁶ Agnes the daughter of sir William Molineus of Sefton married a David Blundel. (Baines's *History of Lancashire*, vol. ii, p. 390.)

¹⁷ Foll. 398 and 401.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. ii, p. 133.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 252.

Parker of Bradkirk.

William Parker of Bradkirk = Margaret, dau of Robert Shaw of Compton
co. Lanc.; buried at Kirkham 4th April 1609. in Ribby co. Lanc.; married at Kirkham 24th Jan. 1561; buried there 6th Jan. 1617.

AUTHORITIES.
*Dugdale's Visitation, Wilson MSS.,
Bradkirk Deeds, Registers, &c.*

Alice, ¹dau. of = John Parker, buried = Margaret, ²dau. Thomas Parker = . . . Henry Parker of = Alice Threlfall, married
Richard Mason at Kirkham 9th and coheir of of Bidston co. Whittingham at Kirkham 30th April
of Holland co. Oct. 1651. Will Anthony Parker of Rodham park co. York. co. Lanc; buried 1609; buried at Goos-
Lanc. dated 8th Sept. 1651. nargh 5th Sept. 1659.
12th Nov. 1642.
See pedigree in *Hist of Goosnargh*, p. 188.

William Parker = Helen, dau. of Richard Parker = Elizabeth, dau. John Margaret Parker = Mr. John
Mr. Beesley of living 1642. of Mr. John Garret of Sin- Christian
Brookes co. Lanc. gleton. of the Isle
of Man.
William Parker, æt. Richard Parker. Alice Parker. John Parker.
28, 15th Sept. 1663.
Anthony Parker, Elizabeth Parker, Jennet Parker, bap. Anne Parker, bap. Alice Parker, bap. Christopher Parker of = Catherine, dau. of
bap. at Kirkham bap. at Kirkham at Kirkham 24th 11th Aug. 1621, and at Kirkham, 20th Bradkirk, bap. 27th
2 March 1617. 30th March May 1620. buried at Kirkham Oct. 1622. Nov. 1625; will dated
Died unmarried. 1619. 23rd March 1695-6, 30th May 1693; bu- Mr. Raphe Lowde of
unmarried. 1619. unmarried. ried at Kirkham 30th and sister to Mr. James
Jan. 1694-5. A jus- Lowde of Kirkham;
tice of the peace. buried at Kirkham
30th May 1681.

Anthony Parker = Mary, dau. of sir Mary Parker, bap. = Mr. Roger Sudell of Christopher Parker, Anne Parker, bap. Alexander Parker, = Dorothy, dau. of Gerrard Parker, Christopher Parker = Catherine, dau. of
of Bradkirk, bap. Thomas Stringer, 1658-9. Preston; married there buried at Kirkham at Kirkham 15th bap. at Kirkham, bap. 4th April of Gray's inn and
at Kirkham 1st knt., serjeant-at- John Parker, bap. 5th Nov. 1677; guild 8th July 1664. at Kirkham 15th Dec. 1667; died in 16th Dec. 1669, of Thomas Westby of Mowbreck, bap. 4th April of Balla Caigan,
April 1657; died law; marriage 5th July 1661. mayor in 1681. 1709 (then late of Gray's inn and of esq.; died 1st Kirkham 30th Isle of Man, bap.
before 1697. covenant dated 20th Oct. 1681; living in Holborn; died before 1703. Jane Parker, bap. = John Westby of Mow- breck, gent.; living 1st Sept. 1662. 1693. William Parker, bap. 9th Feb. 1663-4; buried 2nd March 1667-8. at Kirkham 6th July 1673.
married at Preston,
Lanc., 27th April
1699.

Christopher Parker, MP. for = Margaret, Catherine Parker, = Thomas Stanley Rebecca Parker, Stanley Parker, Elizabeth Parker = Charles Stanley, captain
Clitheroe 1708. By his will, only dau. of of Cross hall, bap. 25th May living 1722. in . . . receiver gene-
dated 1st Jan. 1712-13, he William 1687, coheir of Latham, co. Lanc., esq. before 1712. general of Isle of Man.
gave all his estates in Lanca- Christopher Par- ker. William her uncle sold Bradkirk 1723.
shire and Yorkshire to his co. Kent, esq.; living 1752.
uncle Alexander Parker and his sister Catherine Stanley.
s.p.

Christopher Parker, Thomas Parker, = Mary . . . Alexander Parker, Robert Parker = . . . Westby Parker, Francis Parker, Dorothy = Mr. Cowburn. Katherine = William Jump of
living 1742. living 1742, cap- living 1755. Parker, living 1722. Parker, living 1722. William Parker, Hesketh Bank;
tain of ship Au- 1722. Robert Parker, living 1722. Anthony Parker, living 1722. had issue five
gusta (East India Co.); will dated 25th Dec. 1748, proved 1755. John Parker, living 1742. Died in Bom- daughters.
Died in China, late of Lewisham co. Kent. Dorothy, living 1748. Dorothy. bay before 1764.

of sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton knt. was probably the owner of the manor, as he certainly lived here and is the only one of the family in the pedigree stiled of "Larbreke."²⁰

From Roger, the younger brother of this Richard Molineux, descended the Molineux of Hawkley, who a century afterwards held Larbrick.

In 1481 Thomas Molyneux²¹ was in possession, and on 3rd January 1569 sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton knight died seized of Larbreck and other manors in Lancashire, upon which a fine had been levied (5 & 6 Philip and Mary) between Thomas Caryll son and heir apparent of John Caryll of Warnham county of Sussex esq. and others and sir Richard Molyneux, by which it was acknowledged that the aforesaid manors belonged to Thomas Caryll for certain uses, viz: to provide a jointure for Bridget the daughter of John Caryll, in consideration of a marriage about to be had between William Molyneux son and heir apparent of sir Richard and the said Bridget Caryll to the use of them for their lives and afterwards to the heirs of sir Richard Molyneux.²²

Larbrick in the sixteenth century passed into the possession of the Burgh family, who had previously become connected with the Mollineux by the marriage of Ralph Mollineux son and heir of Roger Mollineux of Hawkley with Helen daughter and coheir of — Burgh of Burgh, near Chorley, in the county of Lancaster.²³

William Burgh died 16th March 63 Elizabeth (1601), and by the inquisition post mortem taken at Preston 11th August the same year it appears that he was seized of Larbrick manor, and that Richard his son and heir was then 39 years old.²⁴ This

²⁰ Dugdale's *Visitation*, vol. lxxxv, p. 204, Chetham soc.

²¹ Probably the Thomas of Hawkley who married Maude daughter of William Pemberton of Pemberton, Lancashire.

²² *Duchy Records*, repertory A, No. 14; and *Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. xiii, p. 35.

²³ Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1664-65.

²⁴ *Duchy Records*, vol. xxx, No. 100.

Richard Burgh was twice married, his first wife being Brigget the daughter of Edmund Fletewood of Roshall and Eliza his wife the daughter of John Cheynye of Chessamboys in the county of Bucks.²⁵ He died 5th May 1639, at which time he was in possession of the manor of Larbrick, and held lands &c. in Great Eccleston and Singleton Grange.

A deed dated 18th April 13 Charles I. (1637) recites that Richard Burgh, "in consideration of the natural love and affection which he beareth to Alice Burgh his now wife and to William Burgh his brother and Dorcas Burgh his sister and others of his blood and kindred, hath enfeofed them" of certain parts of his lands &c., to wit "all that capital messuage called Larbrecke hall, also lands in Larbrecke usually occupied with the hall, the manor of Larbrecke &c., and a close of land called Bankehey in Singleton Grange," one moiety thereof to the use of Richard Burgh and his wife Alice "and the heirs of the body of s^d Richard Burgh for pte of jointure of s^d Alice and in recompense of her dower," and failing issue then to "Peter Woodhouse cosin and nephew of s^d Richard Burgh." The other moiety was to be to the use of Richard Burgh and his wife and their children, but failing such issue then to William and Dorcas Burgh his brother and sister for their lives, and afterwards to John Woodhouse brother to the beforenamed Peter Woodhouse.²⁶

Richard Burgh died 5th May 1639 leaving no issue, and his brother William, then 60 years old, was declared to be his heir. He died very shortly afterwards, and from the inquisition post mortem taken at Preston 23 September 1640, it appears that he was "a lunatic," and Sara Woodhouse widow was his sister and heir, and she was then upwards of 60 years old.²⁷ After her decease the estate descended to her son William Woodhouse of Larbrick gentleman, who was buried at Kirkham 2nd September 1661.

²⁵ St. George's *Visitation*, vol. lxxxii, p. 89, Chetham soc.

²⁶ *Duchy Records, Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. xxx, p. 100.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

His only daughter and heir Alice married Edward Shuttleworth, who in 1664 is described as of Larbrecke, gentleman. From a deed (for the purpose of a common recovery) dated 8th March 16 Charles II. (1664) it appears that Edward Shuttleworth was the owner of Larbricke and of Thornton hall in Thornton, and from an endorsement on the back that he held at that or a subsequent period the rank of captain.

He was buried at Kirkham 25th February 1672-3, and had issue two daughters: Dorothy who married Charles Leigh M.D. of Singleton Grange [see p. 187], and fleetwood who married Richard Longworth of St. Michaels-on-the-Wyre esq., and each of these daughters held a moiety of the manor of Larbrick. Some time previous to 1717, Dr. Leigh and dame Jane Fowle widow of sir Thomas Fowle knt., being seized of one moiety of the estate in trust, conveyed the same to Reginal Bretland, serjeant-at-law, subject to redemption of 1001*l*., which was owing to serjeant Bretland by Dr. Leigh, and which sum not being paid the property became absolutely his. In the meantime Dr. Leigh died and devised his real estate to his wife, and she dying without issue the equity of redemption of the mortgaged estate descended to her only sister fleetwood, the wife of Richard Longworth, who at once entered upon the premises.

Richard Longworth shortly afterwards died, leaving a son Edward who laid claim to the property by some deed of conveyance from his father and mother. Serjeant Bretland was also dead and had devised his property to his nephew Tobias Bretland of Thorncliffe in the county of Chester esq. who applied to the master of the rolls for an order, which he obtained, to compel the defendants to pay off the mortgage or to relinquish the equity of redemption.

The money was not paid within the stated time, and in 1747 this moiety of Larbrick was sold to Robert Lillyman of Werneth in the county of Chester esq., who in the same year conveyed it to Richard Harrison of Bankfield gent. This part of the estate is described as "all that brick barn" then or heretofore "enjoyed

with the messuage called Larbrick hall and two crofts at the west end, and the scite or ground whereupon the old barn stood with the way or lane leading from said barn to the south-west corner of the moat, with free fishing in the river Wyre and a moiety of the manor or reputed manor of Larbrick.”²⁸

The other moiety, which consisted of the hall and the remainder of the estate, was in 1704 conveyed by Richard Longworth and fleetwood his wife to Edmund Hornby of Poulton gentleman, and John Hornby of Newton-cum-Scales yeoman, who subsequently sold it to Edward Styth of Wharles yeoman, from whom it passed to the Peddar family of Preston, who held it for upwards of a century.²⁹

On the death of the rev. John Peddar it was sold to Mr. Whiteside, the present owner.

Larbrick hall is now used as a farm-house and externally has little appearance of antiquity, having been refronted with brick. Over the old porch is a stone let into the wall and bearing the initials (and date)

S
E R
1724

which refers to Edward Styth, who at that time was the owner of the place.

The interior of the building shows signs of age; its walls in some parts are five feet thick, and the plan of the old hall with its snug chimney corner can still easily be traced. Some of the doors are of oak, the blackness of which has been the growth of centuries, and the places where the old fashioned mullioned windows have been are yet discernible.

The moat so lately as 1860 surrounded the hall except where it had been filled up to make a cart-road to the house, and it then included about one Cheshire acre of land; a small portion of it yet remains intact.

²⁸ *Title Deeds.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

SINGLETON GRANGE.

In 1703 there was in existence a copy of a grant of Singleton Grange from king John, which bore the date of 28 July 1215 (17 John),³⁰ and in 25 Edward I. (1296-97) earl Edmund (Edmundus frater regis) was entitled to an annual payment of 20s. from the same estate.³¹ For the next two centuries we have discovered no record of Singleton Grange; but Baines is probably correct in stating that it formed part of the possessions of Coker-sand abbey,³² as it is certain that it ultimately came into the hands of Henry VIII., who by letters patent dated 20th August 1543 granted it to William Eccleston of Eccleston in the county of Lancaster gentleman,³³ who in 38 Henry VIII. (1546-47) commenced an action against Nicholas Butler, John Grant and others for trespass on the fishing in the river Wyre at Singleton Grange, and charges the defendants with using such violence towards his servants that "some of them were wounded in the assault."³⁴

Thomas Eccleston succeeded his father, and in 16 Elizabeth (1573-74) we find him pleading in the duchy court against Edward Williams gentleman, who, he states, has taken to his own use the Grange and a parcel of land containing three acres called the Grange marsh.³⁵ On the 5th December 35 Elizabeth (1592) Thomas Eccleston died, and from the inquisition post mortem taken at Preston 15th January following it appears that he was seized of Singleton Grange, then late in the occupation of James Taylor, and other messuages lands and tenements, all of which he had bequeathed by will dated 1st December 1592 to Adam his son, who is then under age. His executors were

³⁰ *Schedule of Deeds in 1703*, in possession of John Hull of Stalmine yeoman.

³¹ *Cal. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. i, p. 136.

³² *History of Lancashire*, vol. ii, p. 495 (ed. 1870).

³³ *Schedule of Deeds, 1703*; and *Duchy Records*.

³⁴ *Duchy Records*, vol. viii, A. 2.

³⁵ *Duchy Records (Pleadings)*, 30 Eliz., vol. 108.

William Eccleston gentleman, his "natural brother," William Richardson of Wyerscough yeoman and Nicholas Eccleston of Lancaster "ironmonger," and he desires that a part of his inheritance be used "for the keepinge and learninge" of his son, and he wishes to be "bur^d in christian buriall wth the pisshe churche of St Michael upon Wyr."³⁶

Adam Eccleston in 1597 granted a lease of certain premises in Singleton to Richard Hollond, and he died sometime before 1621, at which time his widow was wife of Roger Downes.³⁷ As the original deeds are lost and the existing schedule of deeds only afford very limited information it is not possible to state positively to whom the property next passed. In 1605 a deed of sale was enrolled from sir Edward Brabazon knt.³⁸ to Peter White clerk. In the year following, Peter White sold it to Alexander Radcliffe gentleman,³⁹ who held it in trust for William Ireland gentleman, who (with James Brown gentleman, who was also interested) sold Singleton Grange 8th September 12 Jac. (1614) to William Leigh clerk.⁴⁰ A portion of the estate was, previous to this date, probably sold, as Hugh Thornby gentleman, who died 4th August 1638, held a messuage and land in Singleton Grange, and John Hornby was his son and heir, then aged 40.⁴¹

William Leigh B.D. was rector of Standish from 1586 until his death in 1639 (aged 86), at which time the Grange was in the occupation of Thomas Lawson.⁴² He was chaplain to Henry earl of Derby and to the earl of Ferdinando, and tutor to prince

³⁶ *Duchy Records*, vol. xvi, No. 38.

³⁷ Probably Roger the son, or grandson, of Roger Downes of Wardley, Lancashire.

³⁸ Sir Edward Brabazon of Nether Whitacre, Warwickshire, whose daughter Catherine married Alexander Rigby of Burgh. (See Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1664-65.)

³⁹ Alexander Radcliffe of Leigh, Lancashire.

⁴⁰ *Schedule of Deeds*.

⁴¹ *Duchy Records*, vol. xxxi, No. 91.

⁴² *Inq. Post Mort.*; *Duchy Records*, vol. xxx, No. 347.

Henry.⁴³ He married Mary the daughter of John Wrightington of Wrightington in the county of Lancaster esq., and had issue four sons and three daughters, the eldest of whom was Theophilus Leigh of Singleton Grange, who was 40 years old and upwards in 1640.⁴⁴ He married Clare the daughter of Thomas Brooke of Norton in the county of Chester esq., and dying in September 1658⁴⁵ left issue an only son William, who also lived at the Grange and married Margaret the daughter of Edward Chisenhall of Chisenhall in the county of Lancaster esq., and was the father of two sons, Charles and Edward; the latter probably died in York.⁴⁶

Charles Leigh was born in 1662 at the Grange, and was educated at Brasenose college, Oxford, from whence having taken his B.A. degree (24th May 1683) he removed to Jesus college, Cambridge, where in 1690 he obtained his M.D. On 13th May 1685 he was elected a fellow of the Royal society.⁴⁷ For many years he practised in London as a doctor, and also in his native county, where, according to his own evidence, he performed some remarkable cures; in one case the patient was Mrs. Clegg, the wife of the vicar of Kirkham, and in another Alexander Rigby of Laton.⁴⁸ He married Dorothy the daughter of Edward Shuttleworth of Larbrick (see p. 183), and died about the year 1701, and his wife died between that date and 1717 without issue.⁴⁹ He was the author of *Phthsiologia Lancastriensis*, published in 1691; and the *Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire and the Peak in Derbyshire, with an account of the British,*

⁴³ *Gent. Mag.*, vol. xxi, p. 270, and vol. xxxi, p. 119, Chetham soc.; see also Leigh's *Hist. of Ches. and Lanc.*

⁴⁴ *Inq. Post Mort.*; *Duchy Records*, vol. xxx, No. 347. A Theophilus Leigh was baptised at Eccleston on 5th July 1671, and the late Mr. Piccope erroneously supposed it to be this Theophilus Leigh.

⁴⁵ Buried at Kirkham on the 21st February 1657-58.

⁴⁶ Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1664-65.

⁴⁷ *Records of the Royal Society*.

⁴⁸ Leigh's *Nat. Hist. of Lanc. and Ches.*, part ii, p. 88.

⁴⁹ *Title Deeds*.

Phœnician, Armenian, Greek and Roman Antiquities in these parts,⁵⁰ a work which, whatever it did during the life of the author, has not contributed to his posthumous fame. Dr. Whitaker says of it, that "Had this doctor filled his whole book, as he has done nearly one half of it, with medical cases, it might have been of some use; but how, with all possible allowances for the blindness and self-partiality of human nature, a man should have thought himself qualified to write and to publish critical remarks on a subject of which he understood not the elementary principles, it is really difficult to conceive. After all, his errors might have slept with himself had not his vanity and petulance been at least equal to his want of literature."⁵¹

Previous to the death of Dr. Leigh, the Grange appears again to have become divided and the portion now known as Bankfield [see p. 189] to have been alienated from the original estate. In 1701 John ffisher of Larbrecke yeoman, William Hornby of Weeton husbandman, and James Thornton of Hambleton husbandman, acting as executors of the late Joseph Green of Singleton Grange,⁵² sold a portion of the Grange (late the inheritance of Joseph Green) to Richard Harrison of Bankfield yeoman.

A moiety of Singleton Grange was, by deed dated 29th October 1691, secured to Ellen the wife of Joseph Green for jointure, and on the death of her husband she removed to Bankfield, where on the 4th August 1716 she, "being aged and infirm of body," made her will, which contains the following items: "To John Harrison of Poulton my grandson and unto Elling Hull of Poulton my granddaughter the moneys owing to my executors; to William and George Hull my grandsons the money owing me by their father; unto Cuthbert Harrison my broadpiece of gold, a silver spoone, my bible and the goods at Green's house; to Elling Harrison my granddaughter my bedstocks and furniture,

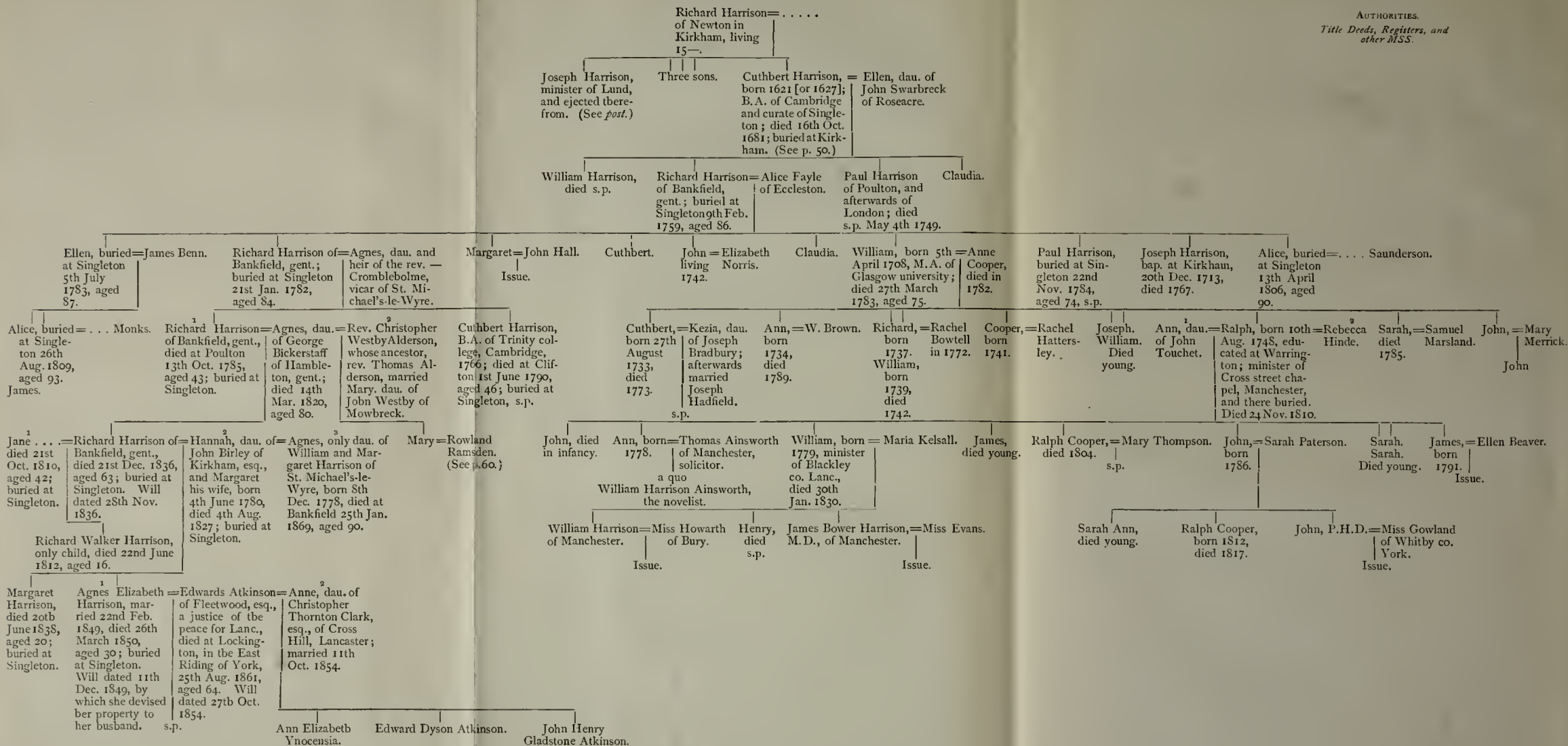
⁵⁰ Oxford 1700, folio.

⁵¹ *History of Whalley*, p. 28 (ed. 1872).

⁵² Joseph Green had a brother Jeremiah Green and two sisters, Christiana Yarewood and Joan Clerk.

Harrison of Bankfield.

AUTHORITIES.
Title Deeds, Registers, and
other MSS.



two silver spoons and a guinea ; to Margaret Harrison my granddaughter my best suit of apparel, a silver spoon, a silver teafter[?] and a guinea ; to the children of my son Richard each a guinea ; to such person as shall preach my sermon at Elswick chappel upon the occasion of my death half a guinea. Remainder to my sons Richard and Paul.”⁵³

In 1738 Richard Harrison of Bankfield became possessed of the entirety of the estate now recognized as Singleton Grange and devised it to his son Richard, who by will dated the 28th November 1836 bequeathed it to his daughter Agnes Elizabeth, who married Edward Atkinson esq.; and she dying in March 1850 by her will left Singleton Grange to her husband, who married for his second wife Anne the daughter of Christopher Thornton Clark of Cross hall, Lancaster, esq., and died on the 24th August 1861, leaving two sons and a daughter. By his will he entailed his Singleton and other estates upon his eldest son Charles Edwards Dyson Atkinson, now a minor.

The present building is used as a farm-house, and presents no features of interest.

BANKFIELD.

In 1677 Bankfield is described as within Singleton Grange, and was then in the holding of the rev. Cuthbert Harrison B.A. [see p. 50], and it is still in the possession of his direct descendants. Edwards Atkinson esq., who married (for his first wife) the only surviving daughter of the last Harrison of Bankfield, died in 1861 and left his eldest son tenant for life of this estate, with remainder to his children in-tail, he to take the name of Harrison.⁵⁴ The accompanying pedigree will illustrate the connection of the family with Bankfield.

PREESE HALL.

The Preese hall of to-day is quite a modern building, the re-

⁵³ *Title Deeds.*

⁵⁴ Compiled from various manuscripts, registers, deeds, &c.

mains of the older edifice being probably partially destroyed by the fire in 1732, which burnt down the chapel which then stood there, and the rest was pulled down in 1864. The hall is occupied as a farm-house by the tenant of T. H. Miller esq., the present owner of the property, whose father purchased the estate from the Hornby family. At the taking of the Domesday survey *Pres* consisted of two carucates of land; and, according to the *Testa de Nevill*,⁵⁵ William Dep's held the fourth part of a knight's fee of the earl of Lincoln in Prees and Newton, and in 35 Edward III. (1361) Henry the duke of Lancaster died seized of the manor of Prees,⁵⁶ having some years previously granted in capite certain parts of the land and tenements to Robert de Prees, which were also enjoyed by his son William, upon whose death (between 1350-56) Adam Skilyngcorn was granted the wardship of the property and of the marriage of John son and heir of William de Prees.⁵⁷

On the 24th September 1360, a pardon was granted to John the son of Richard le Botiller of Merton, for having shot at Adam de Skilyngcorne in a place called Depedale (now known as Depdale wood) in Clifton.⁵⁸

This Adam de Skillyngcorn took a lease for twelve years of a place called Hoddesdone, for which he paid to the duchy 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum,⁵⁹ and he had previously, in 1359, secured to himself for a term of six years the fishery in the river Ribble at the town of Penwortham, with the demesne meadows, at a yearly rent of six marks.⁶⁰

Adam de Skillicorne was for many years a coroner for the county of Lancaster, and it was no doubt for the discharge of his public duties that he obtained in 1361 a license to take men about with him within the duchy for the defence and protection of his person.⁶¹

⁵⁵ Fol. 397.

⁵⁶ *Cal. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. ii, p. 234.

⁵⁷ *Duchy Records, Cal. of Rolls (32nd Report of Public Records)*, p. 344.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 347.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 343.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 338.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 340.

Skillicorne of Prees.

AUTHORITIES.

MSS. Record Office,
Dodsworth MSS., Registers, &c. &c.

Adam de Skillicorne=Alice

Edmund Skillicorne=Margaret, daughter of
Thomas de Rigmayden.

William Skillicorne=. . . .

John Skillicorne. =
Licence for an
oratory of Single-
ton renewed in
1455-56.

William Skillicorne=. . . .

John Skillicorne=Anne, widow of
James Anderton,
daughter of
Henry Farington, knt.;
died 22nd December,
26 Henry VIII. (1534).

William Skillicorne=. . . .

Ellen =Nicholas Skillicorne,=Margaret, daughter of
died *ante* heir of Richard William Moore of
1536. Skillicorne; living Bank hall near
1536. Liverpool, gent.

Richard Skillicorne,=Isabel, daughter of
living 1536. Ralph Langton esq.;
living 1536.

Richard Skillicorne, died 13th=. . . .
May, 26 Henry VIII. (1535),
Inq. Post Mort. 10th May,
27 Henry VIII. (1536).

Joan,
living 1536.

Elizabeth,
living 1536..

Anne,
living 1536.

Ellen,
living 1536.

William Skillicorne,=Jane, daughter of
died 21st October sir Thomas Hoghton
1601, buried at the of Hoghton co.
Clifton chapel, Lanc., knt.
Kirkham.

John Skillicorne,
living 1562.

Thomas Skillicorne,
living 1542.

Nicholas Skillicorne,=Margaret,
aged 39 years and 2nd daughter of
upwards; in 1601 sir Thomas Hesketh
had a life interest of Rufford, knt.,
in Prees manor. and Dame Alice his
wife; survived her
husband.

Richard Skillicorne,
living 1562.

Margaret,=George (son of
living George Rogerley)
1613. of Park hall, in
Blackrod co.
Lanc.; living 1613.

Edward Skillicorne,
living 1582.
Alice buried at
Kirkham 13th
July 1598.
Jane buried at
Kirkham 11th
March 1600.

John Skillicorne, =
living 1528.

Margaret Skillicorne,
bap. at Kirkham
5th Nov. 1587.

Jane Skillicorne,
bap. at Kirkham
5th Nov. 1587.
Mary Skillicorne,
bap. at Kirkham
14th Nov. 1592.
William Skillicorne,
bap. at Kirkham
6th August 1594.

William Skillicorne=Elizabeth,
daughter of
Henry Preston
of Preston.

Henry,
living 1602.

Thomas,
living 1602.

Edward,
living 1602.

Hesketh,
living 1602.

Nicholas,
living 1602.

Robert,
living 1602.

Elizabeth Skillicorne.

Jane Skillicorne.

He died probably in 1384, as on the 6th March in that year a precept was issued to the sheriff to elect a coroner in his place.⁶² John Skillicorne appears to have succeeded him but did not long survive, as in 1385 a fine was paid to the duchy by John de Fletewode executor of his will, and in 1386 the sheriff was directed to fill the vacancy caused by his death.⁶³

The nine first generations of the accompanying pedigree are extracted from the inquisition post mortem of Richard Skillicorne, which was taken at Wigan on the 10th May 27 Henry VIII. (1535),⁶⁴ from which it appears that a certain William de Sothworthe, vicar of the church of Pulton, was formerly seized of ten messuages⁶⁵ * * * in Preston, twelve messuages, three hundred acres of land, three hundred acres of pasture, forty acres of meadow, and of certain rights of fishing in the river Ribble at Newton (juxta Kirkham) which John Fraunce and Margaret his wife then held for the term of life of the said Margaret, the reversion thereof to go to the said William Sothworthe, who also held lands in Warton and the manor of Prees. Thus being seized he by deed (which was shown to the jurors) gave the manor of Prees to Adam de Skillicorne and Alice his wife (including all the messuages and lands which he William Sothworthe had of the gift of the said Adam Skillicorne), after whose death the whole was to descend to Edmund Skillicorne, son and heir of Adam and Alice, and his heirs by his wife Margaret the daughter of Thomas de Rigmayden. As the descendant of Edmund Skillicorne, Richard Skillicorne held at the time of his death the manor of Prees and other estates in Lancashire which, failing male issue, passed to his uncle Nicholas Skillicorne.

For the military muster of 1574, William Skillicorne of Prees had to furnish one light horse, one coale plate, one pyke, two longe bowes, two sheff arrowes, two steel cappes, one caliver,

⁶² *Duchy Records, Cal. of Rolls (32nd Report of Public Records)*, p. 356.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 358.

⁶⁴ Record office.

⁶⁵ The manuscript is in some places illegible.

one marrione.⁶⁶ (Cuthbert Clifton and John Westby furnished the same.) His name was amongst those of the gentlemen of the "best callinge within the countye of Lancaster" who were chosen to lend money upon privy seal to the queen in 1588.⁶⁷

William Skillicorne died on the 21st October 1601, was buried in the Clifton chapel at Kirkham, and by the inquisition post mortem taken at Preston it appears that he was seized of the manor of Prees and land in Weeton-cum-Preese, Newton-cum-Scales, Thistleton, Warton and other places; his son and heir Nicholas was then 39 years old and had a life interest in the manor. Nicholas Skillicorne married Alice the daughter of sir Thomas Hesketh of Rufford knt. and had issue seven sons, and it is very probable that on his death the property was sold and the family ceased to hold the position which for centuries it had done. The name still lingers in the district, but after the early part of the seventeenth century all traces of the Skillicornes of Prees are lost.

WESTBY HALL

Has now disappeared, a farm-house standing on its site. Gilbert de Clyfton who was sheriff of Lancashire in 1278 was lord of the manor of Westby; and in 20 Edward I. (1291-92) the king's attorney put in a claim upon the manor of Westby against William the son of Henry de Clifton, on the ground that it belonged to king Richard in fee;⁶⁸ the verdict was given for the defendant, and the family afterwards held undisputed possession.

In 2 Edward II. (1317-18) a charter of free warren in Clifton and Westby was granted to William de Clifton.⁶⁹

The Cliftons on their first settling in Kirkham no doubt lived at Clifton hall,⁷⁰ but towards the end of the fifteenth century

⁶⁶ Gregson's *Portfolio*, p. 29.

⁶⁷ Vol. lvii, p. 8, Chetham soc.

⁶⁸ *Placita de Quo. Warr.*, 20 Edward I., Lanc. Rol. 7d.

⁶⁹ *Ing. Post. Mort.*, 22 Edward I., p. 64.

⁷⁰ Clifton hall has long since disappeared; the remains of the old moat was visible some twenty years ago. The present Clifton hall is quite modern.

Robert Clifton, who married Margaret the daughter of Nicholas Butler of Bewsey, gave Westby for the inheritance of his younger son William Clifton, whose descendants were afterwards described as of Westby.

The last of the family who resided at Westby hall was sir Cuthbert Clifton.

In 1641 major Edward Robinson was living here ; and on one occasion some of the cavaliers made a raid upon this part of the Fylde, and came on foot over the Ribble in the night time as far as Westby hall and remained in ambush a whole day, and in the next night they made an unsuccessful attempt to abstract the major's horses from the stable.⁷¹ After that time the hall has probably been let to the farm tenant.

In 1742 the old chapel, which was formerly attached to the hall, was opened for the use of the Roman catholics of the neighbourhood, but it was closed in 1845, and shortly afterwards (1859) the present chapel was built.

LITTLE ECCLESTON HALL.

This was for many generations the seat of the ffrance family, and although now converted into a farm-house, it was at the close of the last century a mansion which might well claim a place amongst the old halls of Kirkham.

In the early part of the sixteenth century (or perhaps the latter part of the fifteenth) Richard Kerstone held an estate consisting of sixty acres of land and a messuage in Little Eccleston, for which he paid 16s. a year to the abbot of Cockersand, and afterwards to Henry VIII. He died in or about 1546 and left issue two daughters, the eldest of whom, Agnes, married John Goose and had issue William Goose who had a son John Goose. A younger daughter of Richard Kerstone married John ffrance, who was living in 39 Elizabeth (1596-97), when he was at the suit of John Goose, the great-

⁷¹ *A Discourse of the War in Lancashire*, vol. lxii, p. 61, Chetham soc.

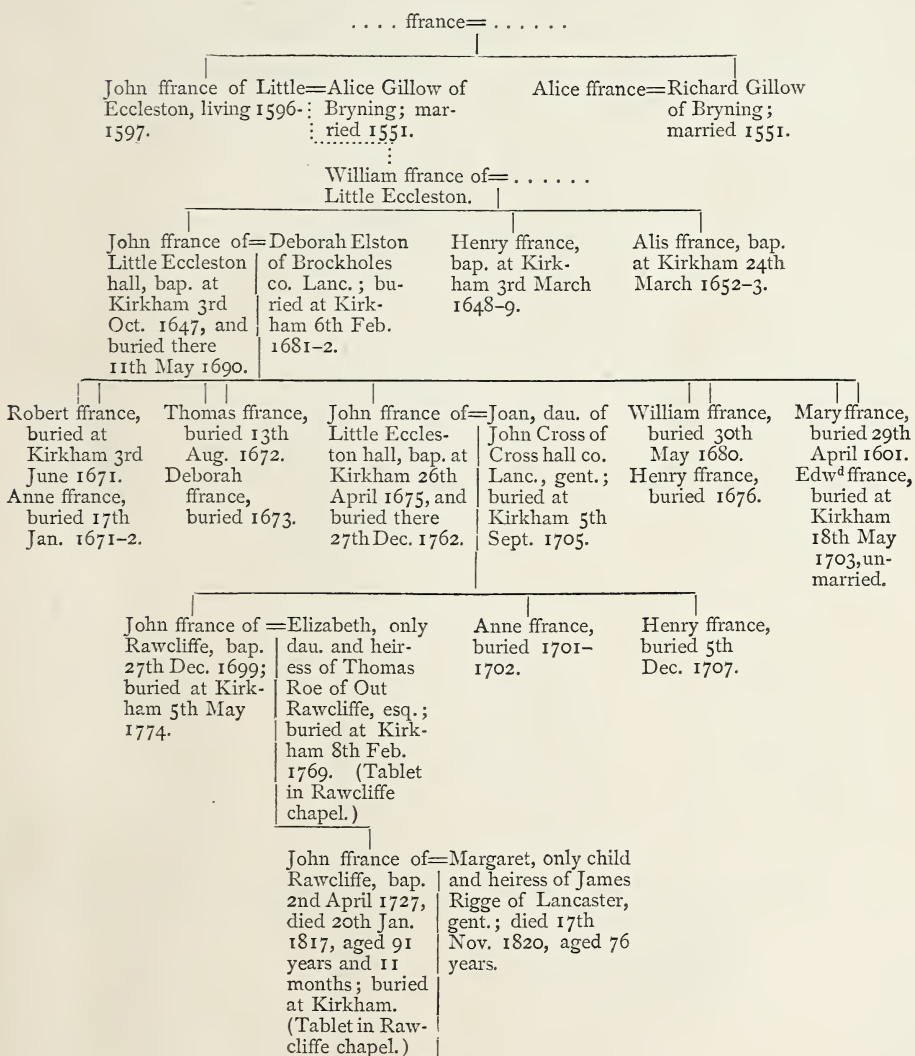
grandson of Richard Kerstone, called upon to show by what right he then held the messuage and land before mentioned in Little Eccleston. John Goose pleaded that the premises were conveyed to him by his father, and that he was "entitled to it as supposing the same to be of the nature of a tenant right." The court, however, decided that there was not "any such custom of tenant right within the county of Lancaster, unless it be by toleration," and thereupon the defendant was dismissed and the plaintiff ordered to pay 20s. costs. At the next term he again brought forward his suit, claiming the lands "as customary lands," but it being proved that there were no "customary estate in the manor of Eccleston" he was again non-suited, but ultimately contrived to get the costs remitted.⁷²

John Goose probably died in 1601, as on the 25th April in that year a "thirty-man" of Kirkham was elected in his place.

The property which formed the object of the dispute just alluded to was no doubt part of that which was afterwards known as Little Eccleston hall. Here in the early part of the seventeenth century lived William ffrance (probably the son or grandson of John ffrance), and his descendants held the property until 1817, when John France dying without issue devised his estates (which included Rawcliffe and Little Eccleston) to Thomas Wilson of Preston gentleman, who took the name of France. The following pedigree is compiled from the *Piccope MSS.* (Chetham lib.), *Duchy Records* and the *Church Registers*.⁷³

⁷² *Duchy Records (Pleadings)*, 39 Eliz., Orders and Decrees.

⁷³ The name occurs so frequently in the *Register of Burials* at Kirkham, between 1541 and the early part of the next century, that it is more than probable that William ffrance had several brothers and uncles.



LEYLAND HOUSE

Was for several generations the residence of the Leylands of Kellamergh: it is now used as a farm-house, and is the property of the rev. Shepherd Birley.

Leyland of Kellamergh.

Christopher Leyland—Margaret Andrew
of Kellamergh, pa- of Lea; buried
rish of Kirkham; at Kirkham 13th
married 20th May Feb. 1683-4.
1665; buried at
Kirkham 20th Nov.
1716.

John Leyland of Kellamergh, bap. at Kirkham 27th Sept. 1668, married there 25th May 1693; buried at Blackburn 2nd Jan. 1744-5.	Elizabeth Whitehead, buried at Kirkham 13th Jan. 1720-21.	Ralph, buried 8th Jan. 1674-5.	Anne, bap. 13th Aug. 1671. Ellen, bap. 3rd Mar. 1678-9. Susan, buried 26th Aug. 1670.	Ralph, bap. 29th May 1680; buried at Kirkham 30th Nov. 1711. Francis, buried 22nd Mar. 1674. Bridget, buried 7th Oct. 1687.	Pheby	Roger, buried 31st Jan. 1677-8. Thomas, buried 19th April 1682.
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Christopher Leyland of Kellamergh, bap. at Kirkham 17th May 1694.	Anne . . .	Rev. Thomas Leyland, bap. at Kirkham 30th April 1699, minister of West Dean co. Sussex. Will dated 1756.	Joseph, buried 1709. Ralph, bap. 11th Jan. 1711-1712. John, buried 1715-1716.	William Leyland.	Ciceley, dau. of Thomas Shepherd Birley and widow of Edward Rigby of Freckleton.
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. . . . Eskride ¹	Elizabeth Leyland, bap. at Kirkham 25th July 1723.	Rev. Edward Whitehead, vicar of Bolton co. Lanc.; died 1789.	Jane Leyland	Thomas Langton.	Margaret—J. Fielden.
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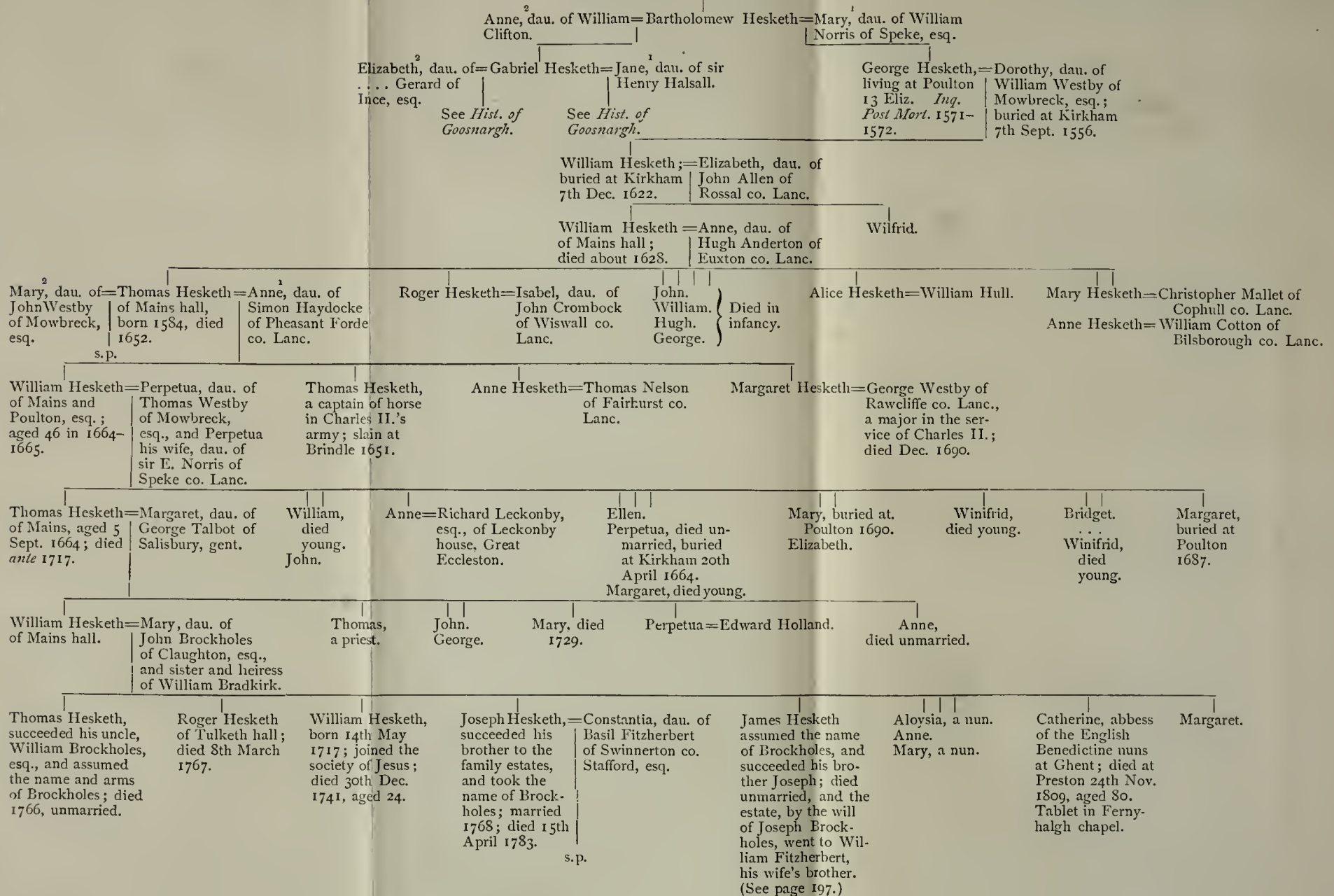
(Piccoppe MSS., Register, &c.)

Hesketh of Mains.

William Hesketh (sixth son=
of Thomas Hesketh of Ruf-
ford) of Aughton co. Lanc.

AUTHORITIES.

Harleian MSS., Middleton MSS., Hesketh Pedigree
(privately printed in 1869), Visitations, &c.



MAINS HALL.

Although this is one of the most interesting of the old houses of Kirkham, there is no authority for assigning to it any great antiquity. We have discovered no mention of Mains or Mains hall until the latter part of the sixteenth century. Soon after this time a branch of the Hesketh family first settled here, and it was occupied by them until the death of James Hesketh, who had taken the name of Brockholes; and he dying without issue, it passed to William Fitzherbert, who also took the name of Brockholes, and whose son Thomas Fitzherbert Brockholes of Claughton hall is the present owner. The connection which the Heskeths had with the locality will be clearly shown by the accompanying pedigree.

One of the principal traditions respecting Mains hall is that it afforded for some time a secure hiding place for cardinal William Allen⁷⁴ during the period when he was endeavouring by the dissemination of treasonous tracts to aid the Spanish armada, which he proposed should land at Peel in Foudrey and on the river Wyre. At Mains hall it is also reported that on more than one occasion the prince regent paid visits to Mrs. Fitzherbert, whilst she was there staying with her relatives.⁷⁵

Mains hall, now the property of T. H. Miller esq., has of late undergone much alteration, and is at present untenanted. Mr. W. Thornber B.A. has preserved a description of it as it appeared in 1853,⁷⁶ and from it we extract the following passage:

"The back of the house, which when first erected was the front, has suffered less than other parts by modern alterations; it still retains nearly entire its prominent centre gable, with its two wings,

⁷⁴ William Allen was the second son of John Allen of Rossal in the county of Lancaster esquire. He was born in 1532, educated at Oriel college, Oxford, and there became head of St. Mary's hall. He was afterwards King's professor at Douay, canon of Cambray and Rheims, and in 1587 was made cardinal by the pope of Rome. He was the last of the English cardinals. (See Fuller's *Worthies*).

⁷⁵ *Lanc. and Ches. Hist. Soc.*, sess. 5, p. 163.

⁷⁶ *Transactions of Lanc. and Ches. Hist. Soc.*, sess. 5, p. 159, et seq.

all three being lighted by narrow ranges of windows. The present front to the south consisted, not long ago, of three sides of a quadrangle; on the west, the wing now destroyed, a very antique building within which was the hall-part, having a huge open chimney, and wainscotted with fluted oak of the reign of Henry VIII., now rotting unheeded in the garrets of the hall. From this hall-part was entered the pantry and 'chomer,' which latter was fancifully paved in patterns, with various coloured small stones, formerly preferred in parlours to a flooring of flags.

"Here also, when the workmen were pulling it down, was disclosed a priest-hole, between a stack of chimneys which had been entered from a small upper closet by a ladder; a most uncomfortable cell, both dark and confined, where the wretched inmates Dr. Allen, father Campion, and the persecuted priest of Titus Oates⁷⁷ in succession stretched their limbs on the straw that was found still littering the floor. On the east of the quadrangle is the chapel,⁷⁸ the date of its erection is yet visible on the outward wall, 1626. The hall in the centre of the quadrangle had from time to time been altered and re-altered, modernized and re-modernized."

Of the interior, "little or nothing had been removed (in 1853) since the death of the Heskeths * * * * even the candlesticks, snuffers, and every household article was a hundred and fifty years old."

The old drawing-room was then used as a store-room, but there still hung in it "an antique costly glass between the windows, and in the panel over the fire-place was inserted a picture much admired." In another room "was a library of illuminated manuscripts and missals without backs, in one of which" was "the autograph of cardinal Allen; also the rules of

⁷⁷ Mr. Thornber cites no authority for this.

⁷⁸ Now a stable (1873); it was formerly approached by a staircase from the outside. In 1845, Mr. Thornber says, it contained a picture of the virgin and child, but the altar and rails were fast going to decay.

the order of the garter written on vellum, in the reign of Henry VIII., and having on the title-page the crest and arms of Norfolk and Brockholes surrounded with the garter. * * * * Leading from the library were two oratories, each lighted with two narrow apertures. In one the squire had offered up his orisons, and in the other he had kept his accounts." In the kitchen were "the little bronze trones, the carved salt pix, the pith board for the amusement of the servants, the cat locker, the linen kist, the bread rack, the pewter frame, the wag byth' wo, or metal-faced cadjum clock, with Breckal de Holmes' fecit upon it, and a date proclaiming that it was more than two hundred years old * * * * and a huge brick oven, capacious enough to cook for a regiment of soldiers."

Whilst the alterations were going on a silver cross was found beneath the boards of a bedroom floor, and amongst the rubbish more than one piece of common money of king James. The only date now about the place is on one of the stables,

T×H×M. 1686.⁷⁹

SHARPLES OF FRECKLETON.

In addition to the branch of this family already mentioned (pp. 36, 74, 75) there was another one, the pedigree of which was recorded in 1664-65, and of which the following, with certain details inserted, is a copy : ⁸⁰

ARMS :
Sable three crescents
argent between the
points of a mullet or.

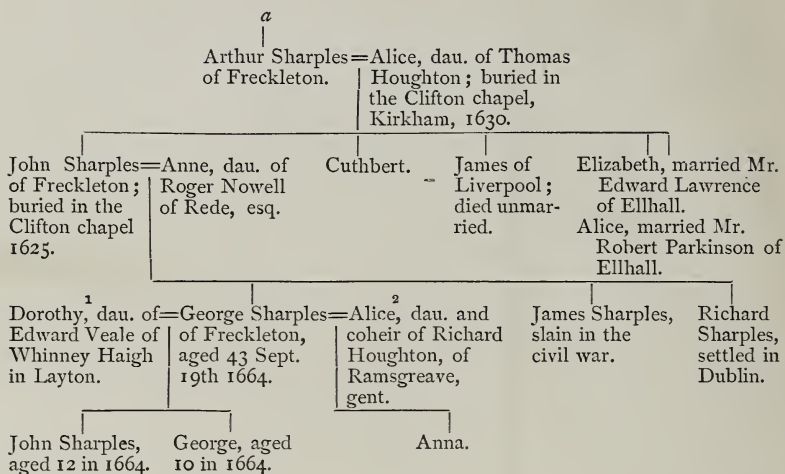
CREST :
A dexter hand brand-
dishing a sword proper.

John Sharples of= dau. of Mr.
Freckleton in	Henry Colbrand
the parish of	of Freckleton.
Kirkham. The	
advowson of	
Kirkham church	
conveyed to him	
for 21 years in	
1591.	

a

⁷⁹ Thomas and Margaret Hesketh.

⁸⁰ Dugdale's *Visitation*, vol. lxxxviii. p. 257, Chetham soc.



CHAPTER XI.

MISCELLANY.

POPISH RECUSANTS.

The following inhabitants of Kirkham registered their estates in 1716:¹

	£	s.	d.
Tho. Westby, at Kirkham and Poulton - -	-	-	-
Thomas Blackburne, of Great Plumpton -	1	6	0
Geo. Cowban, of Little Plumpton - - -	0	0	0
Cuthbert Westby, out of Kirkham - - -	0	16	0
Anne Charnock, of Salwick - - - - -	1	4	0
Thurston Walley, of Kirkham - - - - -	12	0	8
Grace Tomson, of Westby - - - - -	0	3	6

A MS. in the British museum (Harl. No. 360), entitled "Tracts on Religious Matters," furnishes the following names of such as were "detected for receyving of priests, seminaries," &c. :

"Richard Hadocke, a seminarie priest, aſs deiv' * * Tytmouse conſante in the companie of two wydowes, viz., Mrs. Alice Clyfton and Mrs. Jane Clyfton, a bout the first day of October last, 1580, by the reporte of James Baine. This appeareth by the pre'tm^{te} of the vicar of Kirkham.

"Richard Brittaine, a prieste, receypted in the howse of Wifm Bennet of Westbye, about the beginninge of June last,² from whence younge Mr. Norrice of Speake, conveyed the said Brittaine to Speak, as the said Bennett hath reported. This also appeareth by the pre'tm^{te} of the vicare of Kirkham. This

¹ *Harl. MSS.*

² These reports appear mostly to have been made in 2 Elizabeth ; some few later.

Brittaine remayneth now at the howse of Mr. Warrine of Speake, as appeareth by the deposiçon of John Osbaldston (by com̃ reporte)."

On the 4th July 1623 lord Zouch writes to secretary Conway, that :

"Three persons are stayed at Dover for refusing the oath of allegiance ; the two last committed for that offence were released on bail by the lord keeper, a proceeding contrary to the honour of the cinque port, which he begs may be preserved. If the king commands connivance towards such men, he will obey orders, but fears the passes will be little esteemed if persons are allowed to return so soon. Incloses (*inter alia*) examination of Thomas Wright of Leland, Lancashire. Went abroad in June last, in attendance on John and Thomas Westby, sons of his master Thomas Westby of Kirkham, Lancashire, and took them to Douay.

"His books and letters were given him by a person unknown, to be delivered as directed."³

MARKET CROSS.

A market cross formerly stood near the moot hall, but it has long ago disappeared, although there are still living people who can remember its existence. A tale is told that during the rebellion of 1745 a man passed through Kirkham bearing with him a supply of money for the rebels, but from some cause he became alarmed and was afraid to retain it in his possession. He offered the money to several of the inhabitants, who refused to receive it ; but early the next morning a man named Loxham was seen to take a bag which was hung on the market cross, and which was shrewdly suspected to contain the rebels' gold, but the recipient declared that it was "only a bag of yellow buttons."

THE STOCKS

Formerly stood in the churchyard, but were afterwards removed

³ *Cal. of State Papers*, Dom. ses. 1623-25, p. 6.

to the centre of the town, where they gradually crumbled away through disuse.

THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL

At Kirkham was built in the early part of this century, and was enlarged in 1818.

In this chapel is a marble tablet, erected "In memory of the Rev. R. N. Griffiths, who was the faithful, laborious and successful pastor of this church from 1816 to 1848, and by whose zealous efforts this place of worship was erected. He died August 22nd, 1859, aged 80 years."

THE QUAKERS' BURIAL GROUND

At Freckleton was opened in 1718, at which time, and for some thirty years previously, there were a considerable number of quakers in the district. In the "thirty-men's" records for 1702 is an item of 3s. 11½*d.* received from quakers in Freckleton. (See p. 109.) The last person buried here was William Cowburn, who died in 1811, aged 98.⁴ The quakers' old meeting house has been pulled down.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC OLD CHAPEL AT WILLOWS.

This chapel was built in 1809, previous to which time there was a "mission" at Mowbreck. The existing chapel was erected in 1845; it is dedicated to saint John.

STURGEON AND FISH ROYAL IN THE RIBBLE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

In 28 Henry VIII. (A.D. 1536) "William Coup, bayle to the king," appeared as plaintiff, and "Christopher Bone, Laurence Cottom and others" as defendants, in a case brought before the Duchy court relative to the right of fishing in the river Ribble.

⁴ *Our Country Churches*, p. 283.

The following is the substance of the evidence taken from the original MS.⁵:

“The king and his progenitors, being seized of the lordship of Penwortham, have always had and used to have all manner of wrecks and fishes royal being cast upon the land or otherwise taken within the precincts of the lordship afores^d. So that one certain sturgeon was found within the town of Warton, which sturgeon was seized to the king's use, and laid up in a house in Warton. One Christopher Bone of Warton, and James Brad^rton of the ley, with divers riotous persons, about the 6th May last, by the procurement of Laurence Cottom of the s^d town of Lee, gentleman, did then and there take out of the s^d house the s^d sturgeon, and the s^d Bone hath at divers times and in like manner taken ‘storgyons and porposes’⁶ to his own use and the injury of his mag^{ie}.

“The answer of the defendants was that Christopher Bone with his net caught a sturgeon in the river Ryble, and that the right of fishing then belonged to Robert Syngleton esquire on the one side, and sir Richard Haughton knt. on the other.

“That tythes have been used to be paid of and for fishes taken where the s^d sturgeon was taken, to the vicar of Kirkham. That s^d Richard Haughton at the time was steward to the king for Amounderness. The s^d Bone having caught the sturgeon, carried it to his barn, and did * * * * s^d Robert Syngleton that he had taken it. And after that the lady Haughton, wife of sir Richard Haughton, and the s^d Laurence Cottom, being servant to sir Richard Haughton, sent to Christopher Bone for the sturgeon, and that he delivered it up to sir Richard Haughton. That six years since the s^d Christopher Bone found a sturgeon

⁵ Record office, 28 Henry VIII., V. 8, c. 6.

⁶ In the reign of Edward I. porpoise was considered a dainty dish, and sold for 6^s viii^d, and it continued to hold its place on the table until after the time of Henry VIII. (See *Notes and Queries*, 4th series, vols. ix. and x.) John de Bredkirk paid one porpoise yearly to the abbot of Vale Royal in 13—. (See p. 36).

on the sands of Cockersand, which he gave to sir Henry ffarynton knt., then steward of Penwortham."

FOLK LORE AND OLD CUSTOMS.—WITCH OF SINGLETON.

Singleton is said to have been the residence of a famous witch, known as Mag Shelton, whose food was haggis, made of boiled groats with a mixture of herbs, and whose deeds of darkness are thus described by Mr. Thornber:⁷ "The cows of her neighbours were constantly milked by her, the pitcher in which she conveyed the milk away when stolen, walking before her in the shape of a goose. * * * A neighbour, suspecting the trick, struck the seeming goose, and lo! immediately it was changed into a broken pitcher, and the vaccine liquor flowed out. Once, and once only was she foiled by a powerful spell, the contrivance of a maiden, who, having seated her in a chair before a large fire and stuck a bodkin crossed with two weaver's healds about her person, thus fixed her irremovably to her seat."

WEETON HAIRY GHOST.

Weeton is said to be associated with the oldest of the ghosts of the Fylde, viz., the hairy ghost, which has been supposed to be the Celtic equivalent of the ancient satyr.⁸

THE CUCKING-STOOL

Was a very early form of punishment, being in vogue in Kirkham in the thirteenth century (see p. 17), and continued in use until a comparatively recent date.

RUSHBEARING.

The annual clearing out of the old rushes in the church, and replacing them by new, was here, as elsewhere in Lancashire, held as a kind of fair.

⁷ *Hist. of Blackpool*, p. 308.

⁸ Baines's *Lanc.*, 2nd edit., vol. ii, p. 482.

FEANLOE NIGHT.

This name is applied to the "fast of All Souls," which was formerly celebrated by the lighting of bonfires on the hills in the district. The origin of this custom has not been satisfactorily decided, but it is said that the object of it was in some way to help deceased friends whose souls were in "purgatory." ⁹

FOOT BALL.

A custom obtained in the town of Kirkham of playing a football match in the streets on Christmas day.

As soon as the mid-day dinner was over, there commenced a general closing of the outside shutters then in use for the protection of the windows, and the match at once began. If any windows did get broken (for the game was carried on with great spirit), and a question was asked as to who had done it, there was always the same reply, "Roger-a-Moss."

BRAGGET SUNDAY.

Weeton fair was, a century ago, of much greater importance to the inhabitants of the Fylde than it is now.

It began on Palm Sunday, and on that day the people of Weeton and the neighbourhood were wont to regale themselves by drinking hot sweet ale, made without hops, and which was called "bragget," hence the name "Bragget Sunday."

MAY DAY.

The first of May was formerly observed here in the orthodox style; there were dancing round the May-pole and the election of a queen of May. Mummers also formed a part of the day's proceedings, and a scrap of an old song tells us that amongst the maskers

There was Babel with his wooden tool,
Too scant of wit to be a fool.

⁹ *Lanc. Folk Lore*, p. 49.

The "wooden tool" was a ladle, the bowl of which was well covered with chalk, so that wherever he struck he left his mark.

BULL BAITING, BEAR BAITING AND COCK FIGHTING.

All these pastimes lingered on here long after they had disappeared from most parts of the country. Bears were often brought to Weeton fair for the purpose of being "baited." The last baiting was about 1790.

PACE-EGGING.

The Eastertide custom was observed here in much the same manner as in the north of Lancashire generally; there were the usual morris-dancers, fastidiously decorated with ribbons &c., who performed a kind of play sometimes called "Ignaguing."¹⁰

There are now two distinct texts used: one (the more modern) in which figures

Lord Nelson you see
With a bunch of ribbons
Tied down to his knee;

and the other referring to the Seven Champions of Christendom, St. George and the Dragon, &c.

Both, however, wind up with the appearance of Beelzebub or old Tos-pot, who is dressed up as a woman in rags, and the burden of whose song is:

Eggs I want and money I crave,
If you don't give me eggs
I'll sweep you all to your grave.

FUNERAL SERMONS.

This custom is of great antiquity, and has only lately become "honoured by the breech." An anecdote is told of the late vicar Shuttleworth illustrating this subject. A parishioner

¹⁰ By some thought to refer to St. Ignatius or ignis Agnæ. (See Thornber's *Blackpool*, p. 92.)

applied to him for a funeral sermon for his wife then deceased. "Very well," says the vicar, "it will be a guinea." "A guinea!" replied the man; "could not you make a sermon for half-a-guinea?" Mr. Shuttleworth's answer was characteristic and conclusive: "I could do so, but then the sermon would not be worth hearing."

CHARMS AND OMENS.

The following, although applicable to Kirkham, were probably common to the whole of the Fylde district:

A horse-shoe nailed to the door. A *hag*-stone, perforated and attached to the key of the stable, preserved horses from being ridden by witches during the night. A hot piece of iron put into the chain drove away the witches.

Brimstone carried about the person, and a pair of shoes placed under the bed, were "perfect cures" for the cramp. A bag of stones thrown over the left shoulder destroyed warts, and transmitted them to the person who picked up the bag.

Onion seed was always sown on St. Gregory's day (12th March). "Second sight" was firmly believed in, whilst the fortune-teller was regarded here, as in other parts of England, as no false prophet.¹¹

¹¹ Thornber's *Hist. of Blackpool*.

APPENDIX.

THE following is a copy of a mutilated and partly defaced MS. now in the possession of the bailiffs of Kirkham. It is a transcript made by an illiterate scribe, and, although very incorrect and imperfect, it bears evidence that it has been copied from an original charter. This charter appears to be now lost, and we print the copy without any attempt to correct its errors.

A.

“**O**MNIBUS S̄c̄e Matris Ecclesie filiis p^tsentibus et futuris frater Walterus deus Abbas de Valle Regali et ejusdem loci Conventus Salutem In domino Sempiternum Universitas &c. Edwardus dei gratia Reg. Angliæ nobis contulisset. Manorium de Kirkham in liberum puram et perpetuam elemosinum & tandem & cartam suam concessisset nobis in eodem manerio liberum h̄c̄ nos ūnanimi consilio & consensu Decrevinus ibi liberum construere Dantes Con’dentes Burgensibus in eodem Burgo manentibus eorumq’ heredibus libertates et consuetudines Subscriptas tenandas & habendas de nobis et Successoribus nobis. Sibi et heredibus suis et suis assignatis p p^tsentem cartem in perpetuum confirmat^{at} in premissis q antedēñs Burgus de Kyrkeham. Sit libēr Burgus & Burgenses ejuius burgi et her’des eorum et eorum assignati liberi. liberam Gildam in eodem burgo cum libertatibus q^d liberum Burgam & liberam Gildam pertinent q^d & liberius continetur in Carta qm̄ nos de Dño Rege habemus l. t. q. habeant in eodem Burgo. Carceram Pillory et tribleget et alia hujus modi Indiciaria instrumenta qua ad liberum Burgum pertinen’ p que malefactores et transgressores cont⁹ libertates ipsius Burg;

passiōne custodiri & castigari in dco burgo assisa panit
 et cervisio libero burgo pertinet. Similiter pondera & men-
 suri q^d predicti burgensis habeant Ballios de
 in dicto burgo nobis et successoribus nostris presentutes et
 juratos—perquisita curiar Stallagia emendas panis et Cervisio
 Cum acciderat semper nobis & successoribus nostris
 burgenses vero dicti burgi reditum sucum . . . ad duos
 anni terminos vij ad natata Domini medietatem & ad festum
 nativitatis S^ci Johis aliam medietatem concessimus etiam q^d dni
 Burgenses hēant omnia cōia Eysiamēnta ad dictum manerium
 nostrum de Kyrkham pertinentia. Ita q^d homines et terras
 nostras ibidem tenentes aliq^d . . . Sc^u ja^c . . . occasione eorum.
 Non omnia vero p^rscripta dedimus & concessimus Bur-
 gentibus eorumq^r heredibus et assignatis habenda & tenenda de
 nobis et successoribus nostris libere quiete & in . . . in perpetuum
 l. c. q^a. . . . her' nostri donatio & concessio firma & stabilis in
 p^rpetuum p^r p^rsenti carte sigillum nostrum apposimus huius
 testibus Dominus Radulpho de Moüroyd et vicecomite Lan-
 castrie. Willmō le boteler Roḃo de Holonde Henrico de
 Kytheleye. Johe Venyal Matheo de — Militibus. Willmō
 de Cliftone Thoma Travers. Johanne de Harlowe John de
 Regmayden¹. Riḃo de Marreys Adam de Hadekirke² &c.

“Vallem Regalem in Vigilia Sci Johis.

“Anno Regni Regis Edwardi
 vicessimo quarti.”

Anno Dni 1295.”

¹ Rigmaiden, no doubt is intended.

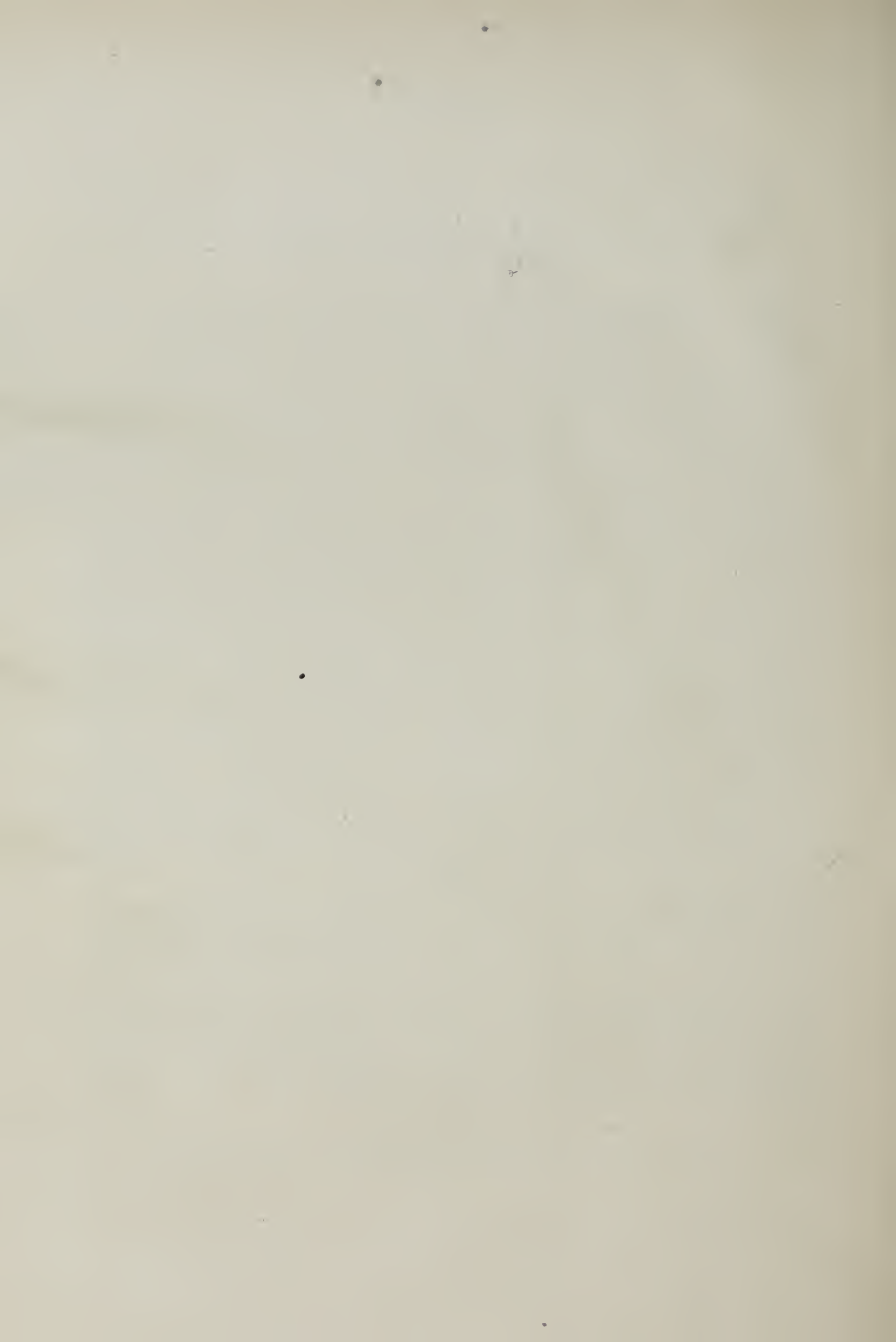
² Miscopied for Bradkirk.

B.

CHARTER OF EDWARD I. GRANTING KIRKHAM CHURCH
TO THE ABBOT AND CONVENT OF VALE ROYAL.³

“**R** Archiepiſ etc⁹ Saltm. Sciatis nos p salute anime no^me “P’ Abb’e et
 ⁊ animar⁹ antecessor⁹ nōor⁹ didisse concessisse ⁊ hac Conue’tu de
 Carta nrā confirmasse deo ⁊ ecciē¹ bē Marie de valle Regali
 in Comitatu Cestr⁹ quā in pic^{to} Maris constituti ex vo^{lo} fun- Istā Carta
 dauim¹ ⁊ Abbi ⁊ Conuentui ordinis Cister¹ ibide deo s’uientib⁹ Abb’i de
 aduēcacōem ecciē¹ de Kirke¹m in Comitatu Lancastr⁹ ⁊ Archi- valle Regali
 diaconatu Richemund cū Capell¹ ⁊ membris ac omib⁹ aliis ad custodienda
 eam p^{ti}nentib⁹ he^{nt} ⁊ tenend¹ eisdē ecciē¹ Abbi ⁊ Conuentui ⁊ et Regi resti-
 eor⁹ successorib⁹ in libam purā ⁊ ppetuā elemosinā Ita qd p^{di}cūi tudienda si
 Abbas ⁊ Conuent¹ ecciā¹ illā cū Capell¹ ⁊ membris ac omib⁹ aliis Rex voluit⁹”
 ad eā p^{ti}nentib⁹ in pp’os vsus s’ adquirant ⁊ eam talit¹ app’a¹cōine
 heant ⁊ teneant sibi ⁊ succ¹ suis imppetuū sine reclamacoē¹
 con¹dicōe vl impedim¹to nrē¹ ⁊ hedū nro⁹ imppetua Q^ure volum¹
 ⁊ firm¹ p^{ci}pim¹ p nob⁹ ⁊ hedib⁹ nrī¹ qd pred¹cī Abbas ⁊ Con-
 uent¹ aduocacoē¹ ecciē¹ p^{di}cē¹ cū Cap¹llis ⁊ membris ⁊ omib⁹ aliis
 ad eam p^{ti}nentib⁹ heant ⁊ teneant s’ ⁊ successorib⁹ suis in libam
 purā ⁊ ppetuā elemōe Ita qd p^{di}cī Abbas ⁊ Conuentus ec¹ciam
 istā cū Capell¹ ⁊ membris ac aliis omib⁹ ad eā p^{ti}nētib⁹ in pp’os
 vsus s’ adquirant ⁊ eā talit¹ app’atā heant ⁊ teneant s’ ⁊ succ¹
 suis imppetuū sine reclamacoē¹ con¹dicōi vl impedim¹to nrī ⁊
 hedū nro⁹ imppetuū sicut p^{di}cm¹ est Hiis testib⁹ ven¹ab¹ p^{ri}b⁹
 R Bathen ⁊ We¹ll ⁊ Th Meneneñ. Epi⁹ Wi¹llo de valen¹ avunclo
 nrō Edmūdo Com¹ Cornu¹ — Johe de vesey. Robo de Tybotot
 Pa¹lcio de Cadurc¹. Hug¹ fit Olton¹, Johe de Lunetat, Robo fit
 Johis, Ra¹do de Sandwyco. Nicho de Stapelton ⁊ aliis. Dat¹ p
 manū nrām apud Westm¹ v die Decem¹br.”

³ *Record Office Charter Roll*, No. 74, 9 Edw. I., No. 88, m 11.



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ERRATA.

- Page 41, line 19.* 1845 *read* 1855.
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 „ 87, *line 22.* Browne *read* Brown.
 „ 96, „ 26. and *read* or.
 „ 26, „ 1. Carten *read* Carter.
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 Alice ffrance=Richd. Gillow Alice ffrance=Richd. Gillow.
 „ 206, „ 1. Feanloe *read* Teanloe.

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